

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Churches urged to "gear up," fight poverty in Appalachia

By David Wilkinson

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (BP) — Churches in Appalachia must lead the way in responding to the region's worst economic crisis in 20 years, a new study has concluded.

W. David Lockard, a Southern Baptist representative on the Commission on Religion in Appalachia that sponsored the study, urged Baptist churches to "help gear up for committed, consistent and long-term efforts" to fight poverty and to minister to its victims.

"When the church has been indifferent and has failed to act, it has become part of the problem rather than contributing to the solution," said Lockard, director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Ivar Holmquist, a Lutheran minister who headed the task force that conducted the study, described the crisis as "very real."

"There is hunger everywhere you go," he said. "There are people so far down the economic ladder that their self-esteem is destroyed. People are being pushed to the very margins." The task force spent 16 months studying the economic conditions of

Appalachia, which is home to more than 19 million people in parts of 13 states, stretching from New York to Mississippi.

Among signs of the crisis cited in the report are:

— Massive job losses as steel factories, textile mills and coal mines shut down. From 1982 to 1983, more than 350,000 manufacturing jobs were lost. Although 60 percent of the laid-off workers found jobs, three-quarters of them were in low-paying service industries.

— Widespread unemployment. In 1985, unemployment rates in 21 percent of Appalachian counties were more than double the national average, while another 61 percent of the counties had higher than normal rates.

Holmquist said that 123,000 residents of eastern Ohio, West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania have been unemployed so long they no longer are counted in the statistics.

The study placed part of the blame on multinational corporations that have moved manufacturing and mining operations out of the region to take advantage of cheap labor overseas.

Another factor, it said, is that technological improvements enable smaller work forces.

"What we have in Appalachia are the makings of an underclass that is mostly white," said Holmquist. "The middle class is disappearing."

"The choices being forced on many people are those usually associated with Third World poverty," added Lockard. "Do you buy food for the family or gasoline for the car so you can look for a job? Do you spend your last dollars on medicine or a coat for one of the children?"

"It's a constant struggle for survival." The report offered broad proposals for churches to help improve Appalachia's economic outlook. Suggestions ranged from sponsoring job training programs to lobbying federal, state, and local governments for changes in public policies which affect the poor.

The Commission on Religion in Appalachia, founded in 1964, is comprised of 18 denominations and 10 state councils of churches.

David Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.

Who will win America?

"Who Will Win America?" is the searching question Southern Baptists must consider during the March 1-8 Week of Prayer for Home Missions. We must reach across all barriers to all people, regardless of the circumstances. Join in the work being done by more than 3,700 home missionaries by giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and praying during the March 1-8 Week of Prayer.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Historical Commission, 200
Nashville, Tennessee

Overseas baptisms up; BMT goals no impossible dreams

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Year-end statistics offer new hope that Bold Mission Thrust goals may not be impossible dreams: Baptisms by overseas Baptists related to Southern Baptist missions climbed 17.1 percent during 1986.

The 185,689 baptisms surpass the previous record of 158,626 in 1985.

The total also more than doubled the number baptized in 1975, the year before Bold Mission Thrust — the denomination's special evangelistic emphasis — began.

An annual growth rate of nearly 10 percent was envisioned in overseas baptisms and churches when Bold Mission Thrust goals for the year 2000 were adopted during the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention.

But the goals have not been met. In baptisms, the average increase had been about 7 percent; to meet Bold Mission Thrust goals, yearly growth of 11 percent will be needed until the year 2000. Thus, the 1986 increase in baptisms gives fresh hope.

Overseas Baptists reached record levels in other categories of work during 1986 and, in most cases, posted healthy increases.

The number of churches, 16,699, is

6.8 percent above the 1985 total.

Counting churches, mission congregations, and preaching points, 35,233 locations were reported, up 6.9 percent over 1985. Overall membership, at just over 2 million, increased by 1.5 percent.

The growing numbers reflect far more than the efforts of Southern Baptist missionaries, said Charles Bryan, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board senior vice president for overseas operations.

"There are dedicated laypeople in those churches, dedicated pastors in those pulpits, and dedicated leaders in those conventions," he said.

Congregations overseas averaged one baptism for every 11 members, compared to one baptism for every 12 members in 1985. Among Southern Baptists, the average is one baptism for every 41 church members.

An average of 20 new Baptist churches were organized every week, up from 16 in 1985 and eight per week five years ago.

The primary role of missionaries, Bryan said, is to "enhance, assist, bring added vitality to" the work of overseas Baptists. A measure of their effectiveness as encouragers and co-

workers is the ratio of baptisms per missionary, 51.6 to 1, up from 44 to 1 in 1985 and 36 to 1 five years ago.

"They're doing the right thing," Bryan said of the missionaries. Those with assignments in evangelism as well as other fields of work are "dedicated to the priorities that the Foreign Mission Board has established in... bringing people into a right relationship with the Lord and then bringing those people into churches for continuing outreach of the gospel."

Brazilian Baptists accounted for nearly 30 percent of all overseas baptisms. Their 1986 total, topping 55,000, was 29 percent above 1985.

Second in baptisms were Tanzanian Baptists, whose 22,000-plus total marked a 75 percent increase over 1985. In Nigeria, just over 22,000 were baptized; in the Philippines, some 11,300. Korean baptisms numbered 9,000, up 24 percent over 1985. In Kenya, some 7,800 were baptized, 1,000 over the year before. Also, the number of Kenyan Baptist churches increased 40 percent, to 846, and church membership was up nearly 50 percent, to 47,000-plus people.

Baptist churches in India grew to nearly 600, from 400 in 1985, and

healthy increases were recorded there in baptisms, church membership and preaching points. Baptisms in Burkina Faso spiraled from 141 in 1985 to some 1,300 in 1986. Momentum in the West African country has been attributed in part to various human needs projects and evangelistic endeavors by three dozen missionaries and numerous volunteers in recent years.

Partnership efforts between Southern Baptist volunteers and overseas Baptists in numerous countries, including Brazil, Tanzania, and Kenya, have had "a measurable impact upon the number of decisions and baptisms and the growth in church membership," Bryan noted.

During the year Southern Baptist missionary work was launched in 46 capital cities or other cities with populations of 100,000 or more.

The missionary force grew to 3,756, or 4 percent over 1985 and well on target toward a goal of 5,000 by the end of the century. Work was initiated in Canada, Madagascar, and St. Martin in the Caribbean, while work ended in Brunei in Southeast Asia.

The number of pastors among overseas Baptists increased by 9 per-

cent, to some 14,500. Still, there are not enough pastors for every church and mission congregation. In many cases, however, laypeople handle church leadership roles.

The increase in pastors reflects sizable gains in seminary enrollment from 1983 through 1985, up more than 50 percent, and in theological education by extension, up more than 40 percent during the same period.

Despite economic turmoil in many countries, total giving by overseas Baptists increased to an equivalent of \$86.4 million, 5.3 percent over 1985.

In publishing work, the number of books printed for overseas Baptists nearly doubled, to 4.5 million during 1986.

Media missionaries and national co-workers produced more than 50,000 radio broadcasts, up from some 35,000 in 1985, for a potential audience of 166 million people. They also produced 2,150 TV programs, almost triple the 762 of 1985, for a potential audience of 57 million viewers.

Healthcare missionaries and national co-workers cared for about 137,000 inpatients and more than 1.3 million outpatients.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Courage and missions

Courage is a word that is synonymous with missionary. We have noted with admiration the courage that is displayed by our missionaries in far-reaching outposts overseas.

We don't like to think about the fact that courage is needed to serve on a mission field; but we have seen the courage exhibited by missionaries in recent days, and we can be assured that just about as much courage is needed to serve on some missions posts in the United States as is needed overseas.

This is a piece about home missions, the endeavor to provide a witness all across our nation; and it is a piece making a plea for generosity in giving for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering that will be a concurrent emphasis with the Home Missions Week of Prayer March 1 to 8.

This is also making a plea for faithfulness in the prayer emphasis for home missions; for without the blessings of the Lord, the money will be worthless.

The lost are all about us. And the lost in Jackson, Miss., are just as lost as are those in the forlorn little town of Rio Gallegos, Argentina. Rio Gallegos is mentioned because we

sent a team there as other teams were spreading out all across Argentina and Uruguay in a simultaneous revival campaign in 1985.

It was the thing to do to send revival teams to Argentina and Uruguay. We were in a partnership arrangement with them, and they needed the help. The people were responsive to the visitors from so far away. There were many professions of faith. I was there, and it was a marvelous experience. I saw professions of faith being made when I felt there was no hope. And one time the preacher and the missionary had given up hope, and I led a middle-aged lady to the Lord.

The point is that we go 7,000 miles away and see such wonderful experiences, but we have lost people all around us in the United States.

So there are three elements to a successful home missions endeavor. First, there is prayer. Without prayer there is no point in beginning to make an effort. With prayer there is no way of stopping the success of any effort. The second is money, and we know that it is necessary for effective witnessing. Our home missionaries are marvelous people, and they work in some exceptionally difficult places. For instance, I am thinking of Sam

and Joan Worley, who lived at South Lake Tahoe, Calif., when I was editor there, and worked with those who came to play on the ski slopes of California and those who came to gamble and party just across the state line in Nevada. Their work was tough, but they took it in stride and did it exceptionally well. The third element is us. No matter how effective our home missionaries are, they cannot get to everybody. In fact, they cannot get to very many. That leaves only us to do the job. If we don't do it, it won't be done.

America has more lost people than most any mission field served by foreign missionaries. We are the missionaries who have been appointed to witness to them.

So in connection with the Home Missions Week of Prayer we must pray for the efforts of our home missionaries and ourselves. In connection with the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions, we must give. The national goal is \$37.5 million. It is all needed, because it is about half of the Home Mission Board budget. Then we must witness. The home missionaries have the tough assignments. We have the easy ones. We must make an effort and make it count.

Guest Editorial . . .

Two gambling bills still alive

By Paul Jones

Gambling is still alive in the legislature. Of the original six gambling bills and resolutions, four were defeated but two remain alive. HB 120 and HB 717 were passed by the house and must now be considered by the senate. Both will have to be voted on within the next ten days.

HB 120 is a bill that would force a vote in certain counties on whether pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing would be permitted. This bill is pushed by a group of special interest concerns who want to profit by making losers of the citizens of our state. Promises of jobs and tourism are being used to hide the fact that a few people who have a special interest in land and breeding horses are the only ones who will profit from the legalization of pari-mutuel gambling.

HB 717 would allow any non-profit civic, educational, or religious group to hold bingo games. Bingo is not the harmless game it is purported to be but a major means of extracting money from people who cannot afford to lose. In 1982 the Illinois legislature had to reform its bingo operation to control "those big-time operators, some with ties to organized crime."

Texas was forced to rewrite its laws in 1985 when the "charities" failed to receive what had been promised. In 1986 the FBI began an investigation of alleged kickbacks and hidden financial interests by state officials who regulate the Tennessee bingo.

Does Mississippi want these problems in our state? Can the citizen Christians of our state afford not to speak out when such is being proposed for our communities? Do the Baptists of Mississippi have a word they can give to their elected leadership?

A call and a letter to your senator will let them know of your opposition to the plan of some to force the problems of gambling on our state. The prophet reminded us that we are to let justice "flow down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream." A call and a letter to your senator will help the fight for righteousness and justice. Your senator can be contacted by calling and writing:

Sen.
Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39205
948-7321

Paul Jones is executive director, Christian Action Commission.

Guest Editorial . . .

Newly discovered boat of New Testament days

The sufficiency of Jesus' provisions and blessings (Luke 5:1-11)

By Jerry Vardaman

On a recent trip to Galilee (January 1987) I had the privilege of seeing a newly discovered boat which is now located in a preservation tank at Nof Ginnosar (near Magdala) on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Archaeologists date the boat to the first century A.D. Readers of the Baptist Record will be interested in a few details about this boat as well as a few general observations concerning some spiritual lessons taught by this new find.

Basically, the boat is approximately 33 feet long and 8 feet wide in the middle. It is approximately 3 feet in depth. This boat, therefore, is much larger than the small boats (whether powered by oars or small outboard motors) which most American fishermen use today. Not many fishermen have ever experienced the joy of filling their little boats full with fish of any kind. But Luke's account of Peter's call (Luke 5:1-11) mentions that when Jesus' instructions were followed by this disciple, not only his boat but also that of John and James were so filled with fish that not only

did their nets break (5:6) but both boats were so loaded with fish that they threatened to sink under the weight of their mighty catch (5:7). This article is based on the assumption that the boat discovered provides a good comparison for the size of the boats of Peter as well as that of John and James. As matters now stand, we have very few comparisons otherwise.

Since the discovery of this first century boat, one is now in a better position to understand just how much fish were involved (with no stretching of the amount as modern fishermen might be guilty of; are you listening down there on the coast, Penrose St. Amant and Frank Stagg??). It does not seem unreasonable, when the above figures are transposed into cubic feet, to think that each boat could have easily held at least 400 cubic feet of fish. It seems reasonable, however, to allow one-fourth of this capacity to go unused to compensate for the boat's weight, equipment, and personnel. The weight varies with different fish, of course, but 40 pounds per cubic foot does not seem excessive and, more likely, is somewhat underestimated. We arrive at the

following figures based on this newly discovered boat:

2 boats x 300 cubic feet = 600
lbs. of fish per cubic ft. = 40
24,000 lbs. =
wt. of catch, 2 boats

In order to learn that 40 pounds represented the approximate weight of one cubic foot of fish, I went to a local store in Starkville (managed by Mr. A. Kirkpatrick, for whose help I thank), and we checked these figures by weighing fresh catfish in the meat department (the exact figure was 44

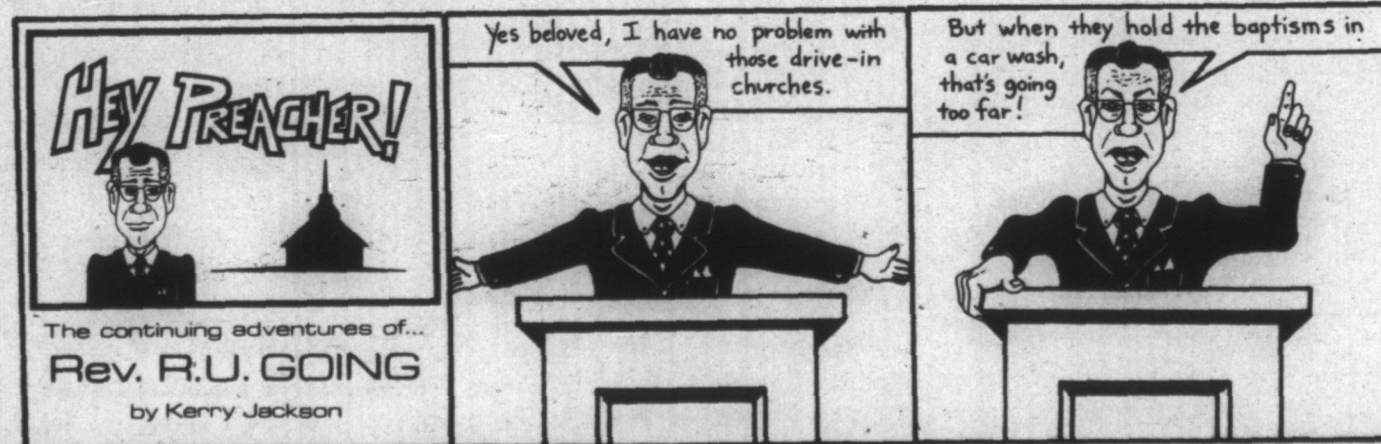
pounds per cubic foot; this figure could be slightly off when applied to the perch, which predominates in the Sea of Galilee).

Thus, the weight capabilities of the two boats mentioned in the Lukan narratives seems to be estimated fairly as set forth above. It is hard to be exact, since one does not know how much weight one must calculate for the masts, sails, nets, oars, and riggings of boats in Jesus' day. In any event, for the first time we are able to appreciate more fully the great power of Jesus which was demonstrated

that climactic day in the life of Peter, James, and John and see more clearly why they laid aside their lesser call as fishermen and took up their tasks of "fishing for men."

A long period of drought, which is now broken, caused the waters of the Sea of Galilee to become lower and led to the discovery of this wooden boat. The account of the call of Peter, James, and John is made even more thrilling in the light of this recent discovery. Our prayer is that the scriptural account will become more

(Continued on page 8)



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Missionaries can't stay in Lebanon

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The U.S. Department of State has refused to exempt Southern Baptist missionaries from its order that Americans leave Lebanon.

Accordingly, missionaries will begin leaving Lebanon the week of Feb. 16, said Isam Ballenger, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

Gary and Jerree White and their two children are expected to be the first family to leave. White, who was school and mission administrator in Beirut, is from Pineville, La. Mrs. White, the daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Bill and Vivian Trimble, still in Beirut, was born in Alexandria, La.

The State Department sees no "compelling humanitarian interest" in allowing Southern Baptist personnel to remain in the country, said William Wharton, director of citizenship appeals. "Nor (is it) in the national interest," Wharton said Feb. 12 in announcing the decision.

Requests for exemptions for the missionaries, who are assigned primarily to educational, publication, and media ministries, were con-

sidered on an individual, case-by-case basis, he said.

The State Department order, announced Jan. 28, requires Americans to leave Lebanon by March 4 or lose their passport privileges.

For some Southern Baptist missionaries, the order will halt 20 to 30 years of work in Lebanon, which has been torn by civil war since 1975.

Missionary retiree Mabel Summers, 72, still lives in Beirut. She first went to Lebanon soon after Southern Baptists opened work there in 1948.

"It's a hard pill to swallow right now, to lose our place in Lebanon," said Ballenger. "I don't understand why this would happen at this particular time when opportunities are so great. But if this is inevitable, then we have to ask, 'Now what? In what directions do we move now?' Hopefully, as we determine these things, something good will come out of it."

Missionary Nancie Wingo, who has worked at Beirut Baptist School 17 years, said in a telephone interview, "I feel, at times, like it can't be happening."

She said her Lebanese friends and co-workers are "crushed" by the order (Continued on page 10)

Teleconference challenges viewers to win America

By D'Lesia Carroll

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — About 32,000 Southern Baptists from across the nation participated in the 1987 Home Missions Teleconference, Feb. 9 — nearly 10,000 more than the 1986 program.

Viewers gathered at about 450 sites for the teleconference, which was broadcast live from Birmingham, Ala. For the first time callers had the opportunity to speak with Southern Baptist missionaries and missions agency leaders. More than 200 telephone calls were received during the 90 minute telecast.

The program concentrated on the week of prayer for home missions' theme, "Who Will Win America?" Agency heads and missionaries shared specific needs and concerns on the home mission field and offered ways Southern Baptists could become involved in the effort.

"The most important thing Baptist Women can do during this week is to use the WMU materials and meet every day so that each day they can pray for our home missionaries," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director for the national Woman's Missionary Union.

Men can also be a part of the action, said James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president. "It is important that the Brotherhood Commission keep challenging men and boys to become involved in missions," he said.

Missionaries also encouraged all Southern Baptists to support home missions — perhaps even as volunteers. Volunteers have played a major role in helping missionaries to spread the word of Christ, they

reported.

Lynn Davis, who served in Ocean City, Md., says a lot of her work depends on the students who volunteer their time in the summer. "My number one prayer request is that God will send volunteers so that more people can be won to Christ," she said.

Being able to reach more people is an answer to prayer for Art and Charlene Bingham, who are thankful that God has provided building space for worship at the Stowe Memorial Baptist Center in Columbus, Ohio. "I am excited about our new facility and thank God for having more of an opportunity to witness," said Bingham.

Witnessing to people of different backgrounds in varied cultures can sometimes be a road block for a missionary. Jimmy Anderson, who works with Indians in Shawnee, Okla., believes it is important to meet physical needs first, then the spiritual. "It is wonderful to see Indians come to love the Lord and at times I've seen whole families walk the aisle and accept Christ," he said.

"We must begin by sharing God with our family, then we can win the world," added Gwen Williams, missionary in New Orleans.

"There is an urgency for winning America for Christ," said Bob Banks, executive vice president and interim president of the Home Mission Board. If the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of \$37.5 million is not met, new work areas will be the first programs to go, he said.

D'Lesia Carroll writes for SBC, WMU.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 19, 1987

Published Since 1877

Men to meet Mar. 21

The annual Baptist Men's Conference will take place in Jackson on Saturday, March 21, featuring Bill Hogue, executive director of the California Baptist convention.

The conference, which includes a banquet and ministry group sessions, will meet at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson. There is a fee for the banquet, but the conferences and the general session are free.

The event begins at 9:30 that morning with donuts and coffee at the church. At 10 a.m., the ministry group conferences begin and run to 11:30 a.m. Those conferences include meetings of the agricultural missions, church renewal, construction, and educational missions fellowships, and sessions on jail and prison ministry, prayer ministry, and volunteers on mission.

The banquet will be at 11:30 featuring music by the "Hometown Reunion" quartet of Jackson.

Cost for the banquet is \$6 per person. Reservations must be made through the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department which sponsors the event. Write for tickets, including \$6 per person, to Box 530 Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 968-3800.

The general session begins at 1 p.m. with music by Gene Rester and Yvonne Irwin of Jackson. Julius Thompson of the convention board staff will discuss Bold New Growth — Mississippi. Then the mission message will be delivered by Bill Hogue.



Bill Hogue



Irwin and Rester



"Hometown Reunion" will sing at banquet.

Projected '87 shortfalls cause decrease in college budgets

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Education Commission, during its February meeting at Mississippi College, made its budget allocations to the Baptist colleges in Mississippi.

Necessary budget reductions caused by projected shortfalls in the 1987 Cooperative Program budget caused a decrease of \$161,506. The operations budget for 1986 was \$3,361,247 with a decrease of \$132,025 for 1987. And the capital needs budget for 1986 was \$600,000 with a 1987 drop of \$29,481. This makes the new total for Christian higher education in the state to be \$3,799,741.

The budget allocation from the Education Commission is based on a formula derived from the numbers of full time equivalent (FTE) students, plus the addition of ministerial

students (which allows these to be counted twice.)

The definition of ministerial students, according to Eddie Smith of the Commission, is any student committed to the preaching ministry and who is licensed or ordained.

For the fall, 1986-87 semester, Blue Mountain College reported 263 FTE, plus 38 ministerial; Clarke College, 122 FTE, plus 37 ministerial; Mississippi College, 2,578 FTE, plus 69 ministerial; and William Carey College, 1,359 FTE, plus 61 ministerial.

Thirty percent of the funds go toward administration, 50 percent toward instruction, 10 percent toward graduate and law students; and 9 percent go for ministerial students.

With this arrangement, in 1987, BMC will get \$433,155; Clarke will get

\$233,932; MC will get \$1,593,636; and WCC will get \$946,207. In addition, Carey, MC, and Blue Mountain will divide equally the capital fund allocation.

Hardy Denham, president of the Board of Ministerial Education, which operates independent of the Education Commission, reported that a total of 73 students were to receive ministerial supplements for the spring semester. BMC, 17; Clarke, 24; MC, 14; and WCC, 18.

Denham said that 87 received aid the previous semester. The amount of monthly aid ranges between \$65-85, depending on need.

Commission members noted a variance between Denham's figures

(Continued on page 6)

Southern Baptist Convention

Cervantes Convention Center.

June 16-18, 1987

Theme: To Know Him ... To Make Him Known

Scripture: Philippians 3:10

Tuesday Morning, June 16, 1987

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Bellevue Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Jim Whitmire, director, Memphis, Tenn.
- 8:50 Call to Order
- Congregational Singing, John McKay, convention music director, Fort Worth, Texas
- 8:55 Prayer, Paige Patterson, president, Criswell College, Dallas, Texas
- 9:00 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention
- 9:05 Committee on Order of Business
- 9:10 Welcome, John Ashcroft, governor of Missouri (Roy D. Blunt, alternate)
- 9:15 Benediction, Wallace E. Jones, pastor, Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.
- 9:20 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions and Tellers
- 9:25 Theme Interpretation and Prayer Time, Manley Beasley, evangelist, Bedford, Texas, "Know Him in Prayer"
- 9:40 Executive Committee Report (Part 1), Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:45 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:15 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 11:20 Music, Bellevue Baptist Church and Orchestra
- 11:25 President's Address, Adrian Rogers, Memphis
- 12:00 Benediction, David Rogers, Memphis, Tenn., student, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Tuesday Afternoon, June 16

- 1:00 Evangelistic Singers, Pat Roper, evangelistic music director, Greenville, S.C., moderating
- 2:00 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 2:05 Prayer, Ernie Eudy, evangelist, Fort Myers, Fla.
- 2:10 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:20 Report of Nominations, Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, T.C. Pickney Jr., retired Air Force general, Alexandria, Va.
- 2:35 Theme Interpretations and Prayer Time, Sam Cathey, evangelist, Oklahoma City, "Know Him Through the Word"
- 2:50 Election of Officers (First)
- 3:00 Executive Committee Report (Part 2), Harold C. Bennett
- 3:55 Congregational Singing, James Burleson, First Baptist Church, Geyer Springs, Ark.
- 4:00 Messenger Information Survey, Martin B. Bradley, recording secretary, manager, research services department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- 4:10 Business — Report of Nominations, Committee on Committees, Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction, Roy Moody, director of evangelism, Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, Topeka, Kan.

Tuesday Evening, June 16

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Choir and Orchestra, Denny Dawson, director, First Baptist Church, Dallas
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:05 Prayer, David Spriggs, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Haines City, Fla.
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:25 Bold Mission Thrust Prayer Launch
- 7:45 Congregational Singing, Bob Woolley, director of church music, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.
- 7:50 Foreign Mission Board Report, R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
- 8:50 Peace Committee Report, Charles G. Fuller, chairman; pastor, First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.
- 9:20 Benediction, Mary Wilson, realtor, Falls Church, Va.

Wednesday Morning, June 17

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Choir, Rick Stone, director; and Orchestra, Camp Kirkland, director, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, Steve Taylor, evangelistic music director, Greenville, S.C.
- 8:55 Prayer, Stephen Rogers, minister of music, Riverside Baptist Church, Fort Myers, Fla.
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:15 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
- 9:25 Education Commission Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director, Nashville, Tenn.
- 9:35 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Russell H. Dilley Jr., president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:45 Theme Interpretation and Prayer Time, Eddie Martin, evangelist, Lancaster, Pa., "Make Him Known"
- 10:00 Christian Life Commission Report, N. Larry Baker, executive director, Nashville, Tenn.

- 10:10 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
- 10:20 Brotherhood Commission Report, James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.
- 10:30 Congregational Singing, Bill Cole, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
- 10:35 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report, William Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 10:45 Woman's Missionary Union Report, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
- 10:55 Southern Baptist Foundation Report, Hollis E. Johnson III, executive director, Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:05 Annuity Board Report, Darold H. Morgan, president, Dallas
- 11:20 Business — Election of Officers (Fifth), Committee on Resolutions (First Report), Miscellaneous Business
- 11:55 Congregational Singing, Gary Mathena, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 12:00 Music, Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Convention Sermon, Jerry Vines, co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- 12:30 Benediction
- NO AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening, June 17

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, The John McKay Family with Vernard Johnson, evangelistic musician, Fort Worth
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:05 Prayer, Gerald Taylor, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark.
- 7:10 Business — Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate and Music Director, 1988
- 7:20 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 7:25 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 7:30 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 7:35 Sunday School Board Report, Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville, Tenn.
- 8:05 Planned Growth in Giving Report
- 8:15 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 8:20 Home Mission Board Report, Robert Banks, acting president, Atlanta
- 9:20 Benediction, Ruffin Snow, pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Thursday Morning, June 18

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Choir and Orchestra, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., Mike Burt, director
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, Dick Thomassian, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 8:55 Prayer, Byung Kook Ahu, president, Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in North America, Annadale, Va.
- 9:00 Business
- 10:00 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, W. Randall Lolley, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 10:10 American Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr.
- 10:20 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 10:30 Report of Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group
- 10:40 Congregational Singing, Dick Thomassian
- 10:45 Historical Commission Report, Lynn E. May Jr., executive director-treasurer, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:55 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report, James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington
- 11:05 Recognition of Outgoing Officers
- 11:10 Message, Billy Graham, evangelist, Montreat, N.C.
- 12:10 Benediction, Stephen A. Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ark.

Thursday Afternoon, June 18

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration — the Powell Brothers, Enid, Okla.; the Don Baltzinger Family, Griffin, Ga.; and Jane Green, Morristown, Tenn.
- 2:25 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 2:30 Prayer, Harold Finch, retired businessman, Mission Hills, Kan.
- 2:35 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 2:40 Committee on Denominational Calendar Report, Fred Powell, chairman, senior associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 2:50 Denominational Press Report
- 3:00 Radio and Television Commission Report, Jimmy R. Allen, president, Fort Worth
- 3:10 Baptist World Alliance Report, Gerhard Claas, general secretary, McLean, Va.
- 3:20 Stewardship Commission report, A. R. Fagan, president, Nashville, Tenn.
- 3:30 American Bible Society Report
- 3:40 Business
- 4:00 Benediction, Joe McKinney, pastor, Gracemont Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Convention Officers

Adrian P. Rogers, president; pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
 Jack Stanton, first vice president; director, institute of evangelism, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

(Continued on page 10)

The rumor is still false

The rumor concerning FCC petition RM-2493 is eleven-and-a-half years old. That's old for a rumor. Most die long before this.

But gullible people who don't check their sources are often willing to act on the flimsiest of evidence. Right now a poorly reproduced copy of a protest to the FCC is being circulated in many Baptist churches. And there is no truth whatsoever to the accusation that the FCC is considering a ban on religious broadcasting.

Here is the kernel of truth from which this lie sprang: On Aug. 1, 1975, the FCC denied the "Lansman-Milam" petition which was routinely assigned the number RM-2493. Those two had asked for a temporary halt to the granting of noncommercial educational stations. The FCC explained then (and has again thousands of times) that it does not censor broadcast material. The Communications Act prohibits such.

Somehow, the name of a prominent atheist also has been linked with the petition. This linkage is also false.

The Baptist Record has told this story — often in great detail — half a dozen times. The rumor is still false.

Southern Baptist Alliance formed to counter threat

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — A new Southern Baptist organization — the Southern Baptist Alliance — has been formed to counter what leaders call a threat to the denomination's "historic principles, freedoms and traditions."

Leaders said the group is not political and that they would not field a candidate for SBC president. The group wants the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the convention itself to support women as pastors, to continue the support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and for "the disenfranchisement now taking place through the office of the (SBC) president" to be stopped. (Details of the formation of this group will be in next week's issue.)

Louise Church adopts first constitution

Louise Church, Louise, was organized in 1950. This year the church named a committee to work with the pastor, C. C. Ard, to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the church. The church voted unanimously Feb. 4 to adopt the first constitution and by-laws.

The aim of some men is to have peace in the world. Others would settle for peace in the family.

Mississippi Baptist Convention 1987 revised budget

Thursday, February 19, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

	1986 Budget	1987 Approved	1987% of Tot	1986 Shortfall	1987 Target	1987 Revised	1987% of Tot
SBC Grand Total	6,678,000	6,935,000	36.50%	328,128	6,606,872	6,624,950	36.50%
Mission Service Corps	8,000	0	0.00%	393	0	0	
INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES							
Christian Education	3,361,247	3,394,379	17.87%	165,157	3,229,222	3,229,222	17.79%
Chr. Ed. Capital Needs	600,000	600,000	3.16%	29,481	570,519	570,519	3.14%
Unified Endowment Camp.	200,000	200,0100	1.05%	9,827	190,173	200,000	1.10%
217 MBMC Education	33,000	33,000	0.17%	1,621	31,379	31,379	0.17%
218 MBMC Hardship Assistance	85,000	85,000	0.45%	4,177	80,823	80,823	0.45%
224 MBMC Capital Needs	60,000	60,000	0.32%	2,948	57,052	57,052	0.31%
225 Children's Village	341,000	360,000	1.89%	16,755	343,245	343,245	1.89%
226 Ministerial Education Bd.	92,500	132,500	0.70%	4,545	127,955	127,955	0.70%
227 Christian Action Comm.	141,760	143,657	0.76%	6,965	136,692	136,692	0.75%
228 Baptist Foundation	135,500	141,449	0.74%	6,658	134,791	134,789	0.74%
229 Historical Commission	32,665	32,665	0.17%	1,605	31,060	31,060	0.17%
289 MS Baptist Bi-Racial Comm.	140,160	139,860	0.74%	6,887	132,973	132,973	0.73%
Sub-Total	5,222,832	5,322,510	28.01%	256,627	5,065,883	5,075,709	27.97%
BOARD PROGRAMS							
345 Convention Bd. Capital Needs	384,000	384,000	2.02%	18,868	365,132	356,000	1.96%
347 Gulfshore Assembly Prog.	142,000	142,000	0.75%	6,977	135,023	134,900	0.74%
349 Gulfshore Operations	128,221	132,108	0.70%	6,300	125,808	125,808	0.69%
350 Program Director's Office	110,473	110,473	0.58%	5,428	105,045	105,023	0.58%
355 Youth Night	10,000	10,000	0.05%	491	9,509	9,500	0.05%
360 Broadcast Services	100,583	103,776	0.55%	4,942	98,834	98,833	0.54%
361 Church Adm./Pastoral Min.	101,865	102,829	0.54%	5,005	97,824	97,824	0.54%
362 Church Building Services	46,414	47,332	0.25%	2,281	45,051	46,522	0.26%
363 Associational Admin.	70,526	72,488	0.38%	3,465	69,023	69,023	0.38%
364 Woman's Missionary Union	291,375	283,096	1.49%	14,317	268,779	268,779	1.48%
367 Sunday School	341,707	344,528	1.81%	16,790	327,738	327,738	1.81%
368 Church Training	281,150	286,206	1.51%	13,814	272,392	272,381	1.50%
369 Brotherhood	191,307	192,591	1.01%	9,400	183,191	183,191	1.01%
370 Church Music	188,751	189,373	1.00%	9,274	180,099	180,098	0.99%
371 Student Work	642,388	679,000	3.57%	31,564	647,436	670,275	3.69%
344 Student Centers Cap. Needs	100,000	100,000	0.53%	4,914	95,086	100,000	0.55%
373 Evangelism Promotion	95,472	97,556	0.51%	4,691	92,865	92,856	0.51%
374 Cooperative Missions	224,388	210,088	1.11%	11,025	199,063	199,563	1.10%
375 Stewardship & CP Promotion	198,677	181,447	0.95%	9,762	171,685	171,685	0.95%
376 Subsidies to Associations	118,500	135,000	0.71%	5,823	129,177	135,000	0.74%
377 Ch/Min Relations & Annuity	152,099	154,116	0.81%	7,473	146,643	146,642	0.81%
378 General Services	693,479	705,053	3.71%	34,075	670,978	679,753	3.75%
380 Baptist Record	259,270	257,866	1.36%	12,739	245,127	245,126	1.35%
385 Annuity Participation	640,000	650,000	3.42%	31,447	618,553	613,000	3.38%
387 Social Security & Ins.	625,000	625,000	3.29%	30,710	594,290	583,319	3.21%
Sub-Total	6,137,645	6,195,926	32.61%	301,577	5,894,349	5,912,839	32.58%
389 Public Relations	18,561	16,630	0.09%	912	15,718	15,718	0.09%
390 Convention & Conv. Comm.	17,500	18,000	0.09%	860	17,140	18,000	0.10%
391 Convention Annual, Diary	30,000	30,000	0.16%	1,474	28,526	30,000	0.17%
392 Convention Bd. and Comm.	25,000	25,000	0.13%	1,228	23,772	25,000	0.14%
393 Executive Secretary	154,574	156,561	0.82%	7,595	148,966	148,961	0.82%
394 Business Office	159,722	163,419	0.86%	7,848	155,571	161,869	0.89%
395 Management Info Systems	98,166	136,954	0.72%	4,823	132,131	136,954	0.75%
Sub-Total	503,523	546,564	2.88%	24,740.94	521,823.06	536,502	2.96%
Board Programs	6,641,168	6,742,490	35.49%	326,318	6,416,172	6,449,341	35.53%
State Causes — Grand Total	11,864,000	12,065,000	63.50%	582,945	11,482,055	11,525,050	63.50%
Grand Total — All Causes	18,542,000	19,000,000	100.00%	911,466	18,088,927	18,150,000	100.00%



Evangelists elect officers.

These are the new officers of the Conference of Mississippi Evangelists. From left, they are Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music director; Denise Riley, Brandon, secretary-treasurer; Tom Larrimore, Jackson, vice president; and Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, Jackson, president.

Ole Miss- Baylor connection launches new gospel magazine

UNIVERSITY, Miss. — The University of Mississippi and Baylor University are joining hands in the publication of a new gospel music magazine, marking the first joint effort in what promises to be a wide-ranging collaboration between the two schools.

Following a trip to the Ole Miss campus by Baylor President Herbert H. Reynolds and several key faculty members in January, the Texas Baptist institution has awarded a \$25,000 gift to the Center for the Study of Southern Culture to help launch "Rejoice! The Magazine of Gospel Music." Baylor and Ole Miss may also soon be working together on interdisciplinary programs in regional

studies, oral history, and archival collections.

David Stricklin at Baylor will serve as associate editor of the gospel magazine. He will be coordinating faculty and staff at Baylor involved in writing and producing the magazine. He will also work closely with Cheryl Evans, editor of Rejoice!, in developing the format and content of each issue.

Rejoice! has also received a substantial grant from the L. J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation of Oakland, Calif., with pledges of support from gospel organizations such as Word Inc. of Waco and Malaco Records of Jackson.

Conference centers accepting 1987 summer staff applications

NASHVILLE — Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers are accepting applications for employment on the 1987 summer staffs.

Applicants for the Ridgecrest staff must be between 17 and 70 years of age and be available to work from May 31 through Aug. 28 with the possibility of working through Labor Day. Some staff persons will be chosen to work for a shorter term or to arrive after the starting day.

At Glorieta, applicants must be between 17 and 70 and be available to work from May 31 through Aug. 22 with the possibility of working through Labor Day. Also, some late arrivals who can work through Labor Day will be accepted.

Available positions at both conference centers include food services,

day camp, preschool, recreation, housekeeping, registration, business offices, and auditorium and conference operations.

The conference centers provide a program of activities for their staffs during their off-duty hours, including Bible study, family groups, recreation, music, sports, and local missions opportunities.

Information may be obtained from Ridgecrest by writing to Summer Employment, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770 or by calling (704) 669-8022.

Information about Glorieta employment may be obtained by writing Summer Employment, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535-0008 or by calling (505) 757-6161.

Carey to host Elderhostel on Gulf Coast

William Carey College will once again host three weeks of Elderhostel activities this spring on the Gulf Coast campus in Gulfport.

Elderhostel is an educational program designed for those 60 and older who want to continue developing new skills and interests. One-week courses are offered at over 850 educational institutions across the United States, Canada, and 25 overseas countries. "Hostelships" are available to provide financial assistance for those who

would not otherwise be able to attend.

Each one-week session at Carey on the Coast will consist of three classes: "History and Lifestyles of the Coastal Antebellum Era" — Shirley Heitzman, professor; "Marine Ecology" — Dela McCaughan, professor; and "Artists of the Mississippi Gulf Coast" — Charles Ambrose, professor. No prior college work or knowledge of the above subjects is necessary.

Sessions this year will run March 1-7, March 22-28, and April 5-11.

Hostelers at Carey on the Coast will room in modern apartments (completed in 1986), and have access to the beach-front swimming pool, fishing pier, renovated classrooms, and other facilities of the college. There is also an option for participants to commute if they live in the immediate area.

For more information, call Cecile Stanback, Elderhostel coordinator, at Carey on the Coast in Gulfport — (601) 865-1500.

MC to offer Elderhostel — includes Shakespeare Festival

Mississippians over the age of 60 who have an interest in Renaissance history and literature will have a rare opportunity to delve into the subject during the ELDERHOSTEL week scheduled at Mississippi College April 19-25.

Glen Eaves, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of

history, will direct a study of the great leaders of the Renaissance, with an in-depth look at Machiavelli and Martin Luther.

George Pittman, professor of English, is directing the Tenth Annual Shakespeare Festival in which Elderhostelers will join campus students in the study of Macbeth and

in the recreation of the customs, music and dress of Shakespeare's day. The week will conclude with a Madrigal Dinner featuring the Madrigal Singers under the direction of James Glass, associate professor of music.

According to Mrs. Brenda Holloway, campus coordinator, both residential

and commuter spaces are still available for the week, but she cautions that all Mississippi ELDERHOSTEL programs for the 1987 winter/spring are filling fast. For registration information, contact Mrs. Holloway at 925-3264 or write to her at Mississippi College, Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058.

Before criticizing your wife's faults, remember that it may have been those very defects which prevented her catching a better husband.

It's not what you'd do with a million. If riches should e'er be your lot; But what are you doing at present with each of the dollars you've got?

Main Street, Hattiesburg calls 66-year-old dentist

By Anne McWilliams

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, has called Russell Bush, Jr., as pastor. Bush, a Columbia dentist, had been serving as interim at the church.

He closed his dental office on January 31 and began his duties as pastor on February 1.

Bush has not yet been ordained as a preacher, though he has been a lay preacher for many years and has preached in numerous lay revivals, both in Mississippi and in other places, including Colorado, Mexico and Spain. He has served as deacon, Sunday School teacher, and in other roles at First Church, Columbia. In 1962 and 1963 he was president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

He was born in Columbia, where his father, Russell Bush Sr., was also a dentist. He was graduated from Mississippi College and Atlanta Southern Dental College.

Bush and his wife, the former Frances Warnock of Atlanta, are the parents of three children. Their son, Russell Bush, III, is a professor at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Bush, who said he had not planned to enter the pastorate until the Main Street Pastor Search Committee kept insisting they wanted to place his name before the church. He decided then he must consider the matter seriously. When he did, "The Lord surprised me. Maybe I can be an example to other older men who feel God is calling them that it is never too late for the Lord to use them in this way."

The Sunday that he accepted the church's call, he gave the following testimony on the subject, "How I Found God's Will."

He said that his father dedicated him to God as a baby but never told him about that until many years later. He placed his faith and trust in Jesus

at age nine. But it was at age 17 that in talking late one night with some friends, he felt kindled within a special excitement about the Bible and its truths.

While at Mississippi College he already knew he wanted to be a dentist. He had always wanted to do God's will for his life, and he has absolutely certain, he said, that God wanted him to go to dental college. "God called me to be a dentist." That furnished him many opportunities and contacts he might not have had otherwise.

In 1946 he returned from the Army to Columbia. "I went out one night to a secluded spot," he recalls, "and asked God, 'Why don't you let me preach for you?' But I got the distinct impression, 'No, I have something else for you to do.'" He said he would be satisfied then to do whatever the Lord wanted him to do, but before he left that spot he made a commitment. He told the Lord, "Since I would like to preach for you, and you don't want me to do that, let me tell you that if any church ever calls me, I'll lay down my dental instruments and never look back."

Later, when he told his wife about this commitment she said, "That would be impossible. No church would call you unless you had made it known that God had called you to be a preacher."

Last fall the Search Committee at Main Street Church told him, "We feel that God is saying to us that you should be our pastor. Usually in a situation like this God works on both ends. Has he said anything to you?"

He said no, but agreed to talk to God about the matter, and told the committee he would have four ways of knowing God's answer. First, through other people. Second, through God's Word. Third, through personal impressions. Fourth, by a fleece.

In a few days, a preacher called Bush for an appointment — the dentist thought it would be to repair teeth. But when the preacher arrived, he asked for a private talk instead, and

said, "God has impressed me to tell you that you are to be the pastor of Main Street Church." In a few days another pastor, from north Mississippi, called and said similar words. This happened twice more — another preacher and then a layman, with the same message. The layman said, "For forty years God has prepared you, and you have a message that needs to be heard and I think God wants you to go there."

Then Bush looked in the Bible at Timothy, planning to read the qualifications of bishops or pastors, but he never got past the first verse: "If a man desires the office of a bishop, he desires a good thing."

The personal impressions he said he could not share, for the emotions ran too deep.

The fleece, he had put out forty years before, when he had said, "Lord, if a church calls me, I will go."

The committee asked again, "Can we recommend you to the church. Yes or no?"

If he said no, then he would never know for sure if the church, and God, would have called him or not. So he said yes, they could present his name. He didn't tell the church about the fleece.

It was unthinkable, unconceivable to him that they would vote for him, a 66-year-old dentist. He gave them a month to think about this, and to study his background, and said he thought, "In a month they'll say we don't want this fellow." He prayed, "Lord, don't let them make a mistake."

But they did vote for him to be their pastor.

"What kind of program will I have?" he asked them the next Sunday. "I don't know. I've never been a pastor. But I'm going to try to find out what God wants me to do and head in that direction."

"There comes a time when God wants you to do something. This is God's time for you and me to be together."



Senior Adult Corner

A missions Sunday School Class of Day Star Church had a recognition service recently to honor the teacher and four members with perfect attendance. The class has 33 enrolled. Those receiving certificates were Mrs. Joann Hodges, age 96; Mrs. Myrtle May; Mrs. Gladys May; Mrs. Ethel Walker and Mrs. Linda Kay Tagert, teacher. The missions class meets at Briar Hill Nursing Home, Florence.

Pictured, left to right, are Mrs. Louise Dorman, class member; Mrs. Patsy Murphy, music ministry leader; Mrs. Ethel Walker, class member; and Mrs. Linda Kay Tagert, teacher. Day Star Church used a meeting room in Briar Hill Rest Home when it was first organized as a mission Oct. 1, 1977. Mission activities are conducted there now on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Richland will present seminar on rock music

Rock music, what is it . . . really? Today, rock music is more than just the loud sound or bizarre behavior. It has progressed into powerful form of communication.

Michael K. Haynes, a former professional musician, has completed an analysis of the multi-billion dollar industry known as 'rock music.' "The god of rock" seminar will be presented at First Baptist Church, 1102 Hwy 49 South in Richland, on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

Mike Curry, a professional musician, salesman, and insurance executive who surrendered to the ministry in 1978 will lead the seminar. Curry previously developed a seminar on rock music that was presented in churches, camps, and retreats in ten states, in addition to local and national radio and television talk show appearances. He is a minister to youth who has served on staff of Southern Baptist churches; as executive director for Super Summer Oklahoma; seminar consultant for Arkansas Baptist Youth Assembly; general chairman/coordinator for Evangelistic Ministries; and special consultant to

Projected shortfalls

(Continued from page 3) and those reported by the colleges for ministerial students, and asked the presidents of the colleges to begin using the same sources — the faculty representatives — for their ministerial student reporting.

The next Commission meeting will be June 11-12 in Hattiesburg.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"The public is invited to this multimedia seminar. There is no charge for admission; however a love offering will be taken. Pastors and youth ministers are encouraged to bring a bus load of teenagers and their parents," says Dale Sauls, minister of education. For further details call 939-1715.

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New translations expand ethnic ministry resources

NASHVILLE, TN — The Seminary Extension Department has released its course, "Understanding the Bible," in the Korean and Laotian languages. These are available for immediate use in Seminary Extension centers

across the country. Plans call for a Cambodian edition to be added within the next few weeks.

Plans for the remainder of 1987 include the publication of three addi-

tional courses in the three languages in April, July, and October. Included will be "The Life of Christ," "Great Men of the Bible," and "Great Passages of the Bible."

Christian creativity will have outlet in three-in-one weekend at Broadmoor

Christian creativity will have its outlet the weekend of March 20-21 during the three-in-one weekend at Broadmoor Church in Jackson.

The three meetings taking place at the same time are the Mini-rec lab, the church drama/music conference, and the Mississippi Baptist Recreators' Association meeting.

All three begin with registration at 6 p.m., March 20 and conclude at 3:30 the next afternoon.

The mini-rec lab, an annual training event for recreational or activity leaders in churches, will feature recreation with age groups: children,

youth, adults, and senior adults. Cost is \$5 for breakfast and lunch.

The church drama/music conference features a choice of eight tracks for participants. The eight tracks are clowning, led by Tom Eggleston; acting, led by Mark McMasters; directing, Everett Robertson; advanced puppetry, Joy Robertson; beginning puppetry, Joel and Cheryl Yelverton; multi-media, Gary Maze; TV production, Farrell Blankenship; and radio ministry, Walt Grayson.

There will be a chance for groups to perform their specialty before the

other participants. The program closes with Mark McMasters in concert.

The church drama/music conference costs \$7 per person, which includes lunch and materials. To register, write Miss Susan Clark, Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. This needs to be done by March 13, especially for those wishing to perform during the conference. One adult to every seven youths is needed.

The Recreators' meeting requires \$10 annual dues and \$5 for breakfast and lunch.

Bible Conference music



Captives for Christ

"Captives for Christ" offered testimonies and sang during the Evangelism/Bible Conference in Jackson at Calvary Church. These are Christian inmates at the Rankin County Correctional Institution. Inmate Kathy, Sheldon Gooch, and Joe Elliott (moustache), participated with their chaplain Wendy Hatcher (seated). In jail for life plus 60 years for armed robbery, Gooch had avoided Christians until he began working out of the gym at Parchman where Ms. Hatcher's office was. "Ms. Hatcher would look out her window every morning and say 'Good morning Sheldon, God loves you,'" said Gooch. He told the Baptist group that "the Lord gave me genuine love and compassion . . . I got my freedom there." He added, "It's a missoin field in there." Gooch sang "More Than Wonderful." Also pictured (in tie) is Chester Vaughn, MBCB program director.



The choir of Calvary Church, Jackson, is led by minister of music Dee Solomon.



Bobbie Butler of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, and Ron Jenkins, minister of music there, play piano.



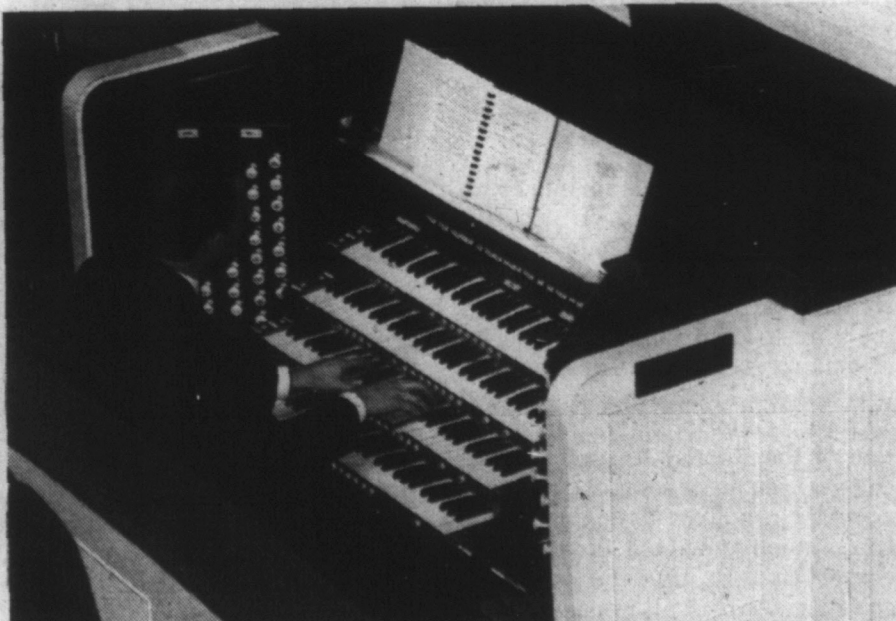
A women's trio from Flora Church sings.



A women's quartet from First, Flowood, sings.



A men's quartet from Alta Woods, Jackson, sings.



James Goff, organist, Calvary, Jackson, plays organ.



Molly Fairchild and her dummy "Johnny" perform.



Verna Lee of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Jackson, sings.



Dot Pray, music consultant, MBCB, plays.



Irene Martin, computer operator, Baptist Record, plays.

Newly discovered boat of New Testament days

(Continued from page 2)

personal and that, like these first disciples, those of us who live so far from Galilee in space, and from the first century in time will, nevertheless, live closer to the living Christ in trust and commitment, knowing that his resources today are just as sufficient for modern believers as they were at that time when Jesus lived in the days of his flesh.

As mentioned, the period of drought has now ended in Palestine. This year the Sea of Galilee is filling again due to heavy rains (the best the country has seen in 49 years). A spiritual drought prevails in some of our Baptist churches, however; and if we need anything to remind us of it, let us check our declining church enrollments, and our failures to be "fishers of men and women" as he calls to be. We can be grateful that the archaeological discovery of this boat made the recent drought have some good purpose. May our own lives be more productive in service to Christ by the valuable lesson taught by the new discovery. May he come "on board" each of our lives, not to bless us materially but to guide us into fuller service and commitment for his glory and to be alert to our opportunities to be soul winners for him. This lesson is in accord with the way His early disciples interpreted this event, and our modern church will be similarly better off when we "follow him" in the same kind of commitment in outreach and faithfulness.

Additional Note:

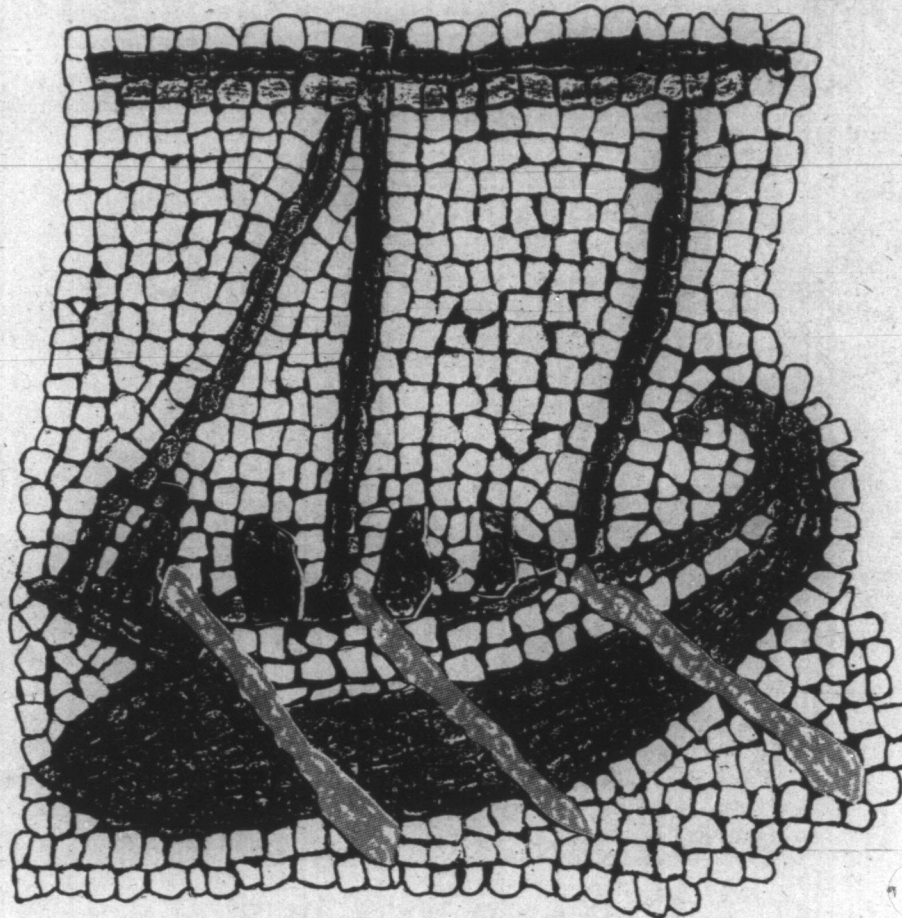
The reader should understand that the figure of 24,000 pounds used in the above article for the double capacity of the boat found likely represents the upward calculation which can be used to guess what size catch was taken totally in the two boats of Peter and his partners, James and John. We cannot be absolutely sure that the size of the boats owned by these early disciples was as large as the one

discovered. For example, a mosaic from Althiburus which dates to the third century A.D. shows a kydaron (Latin = cydaron) with a couple of fishermen in it, working with their nets. If we research this word as used in the first century A.D., and assume that it represents the ploion of Luke 5 (?) one could still be dealing with a boat of rather large capacity. For example, a kydaron mentioned in the Oxyrhynchus Papyri (1197; dates A.D. 211) lists its capacity as 3 3/4 tons (= 7500 pounds capacity; making the combined catch of Peter and his partners as approximately 15,000 pounds; cf. P. Oxy. 1650.12 and 1651.15). But the boats of Peter are called by the name ploion and not ploiarion (= "small boat") and since the word ploion even refers to ships which ply the Mediterranean, implying that their size is rather large (see Acts 20:13, 38; 21:2, 6; 27:2-44; Rev. 8:9; 18:19) there is good reason to think that the boats used by Peter and his partners, James and John, would not be in disagreement in size with the recently discovered boat from Nof

Ginnosar. We show here how the kydaron, which to us seems smaller than the boats used by the early disciples, appears on the mosaic of Althiburus.

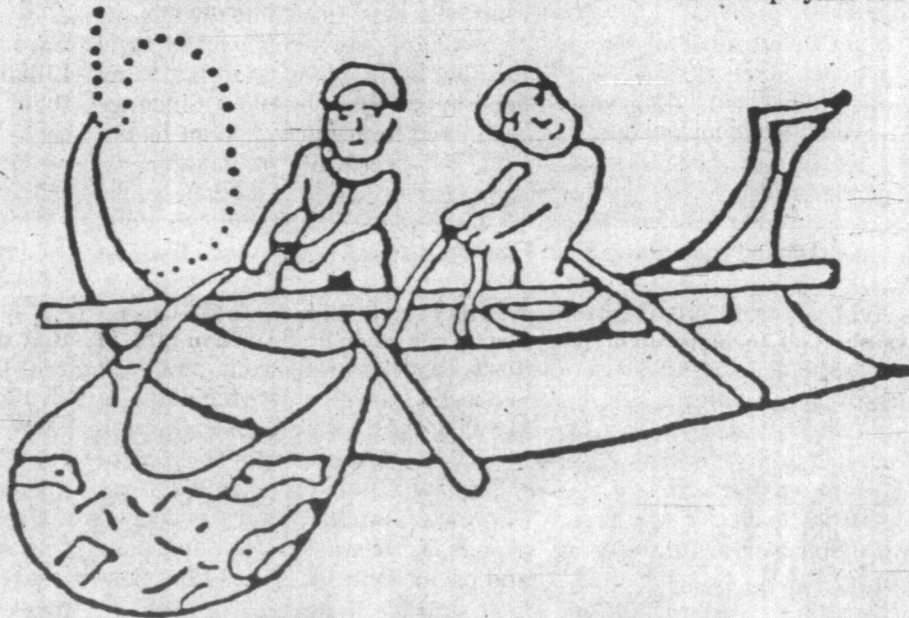
Another clue that the ploion which would operate on the Sea of Galilee had large capacities is found in Luke 8:22-26. Assuming that all of Jesus' disciples accompanied him on the journey across the Sea of Galilee on this occasion, and allowing for a crew of perhaps a half dozen persons (?), there were approximately 20 persons on board the boat when the storm struck. Moreover, still enough room remained in the boat for Jesus to stretch out and sleep (vv. 23, 24).

Since fishing boats often times had to venture out into the middle of the lake, and since storms frequently swept down on its waters, experience taught the sailors who operated there that it was wise to have strong, large boats capable of surviving such storms. I have talked with ship captains who operate ships on the Lake of Galilee today, and they mention that the waves churned up by the sud-



Mosaic from Magdala on the Sea of Galilee Dating to First Century A.D.

The two figures on the left seem to hold oars, but the figure on the right seems to control the steering rudder of the ship. Many of the illustrations from the Book of James are drawn from his life on the Sea of Galilee as a young man, and he even refers to the helm of rudder of a ship as a small object which controlled the whole ship (James 3:4).



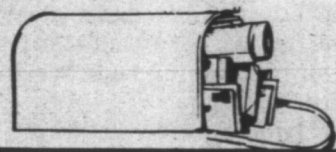
Mosaic from Althiburus, Dating to the Third Century A.D.
(Althiburus is the modern Ebba Ksour, in N. Africa).

den squalls which strike the lake often reach to 10 ft. in height. Thus, one clearly sees the wisdom in building large boats for the fishing trade in Jesus' time as well.

One other interesting piece of evidence as to the appearance of boats on the Sea of Galilee comes from Magdala. We give below an artist's representation of a mosaic from Magdala, dating to the first century A.D. (my thanks to an artist, Susan Jochimsen of our Cobb Institute staff, for this drawing, taken from a slide in

my possession; the mosaic is now located in Capernaum within the Franciscan property there.) One notes what seems to be sailors, or fishers, within the boat, and holding oars, as well as a rolled up sail above, supported by a double mast. As one can imagine, the rolled up sail could be quickly dropped at the first appearance of the right wind.

Jerry Vardaman is director of special programs for Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Genesis Commission

Editor:

Last November we were privileged to have Dr. Bill Darnell in our church for a Bible conference. During that time I developed a friendship with him and found him to be a man of faith, vision, and courage. His burden for our lost world was quite obvious as he shared plans for a new church planting ministry in foreign lands. It thrilled my heart to hear of their plans for reaching new people for Christ.

Not one time did it enter my mind that this new mission endeavor would be in competition with the FMB. After all, there certainly is no shortage of

prospects for evangelism. And quite frankly, I am very disappointed with the rather cool and even negative response of some of our mission leaders. Their focus seems to have shifted from the priority of seeing people come to know Christ to a priority of making sure that we are the ones to win them. I also was disappointed with your editorial in the Jan. 29 edition of the Baptist Record. In that editorial you made some assumptions about their motives for beginning this commission and about the potential competitiveness between our FMB and themselves. I also question why you felt the need to call this a group

led by Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson without even mentioning Bill Darnell. I do not understand your purpose in casting so many shadows on this new mission enterprise without first giving them an opportunity to operate.

At any rate I praise God for all such efforts, including our own Foreign Mission Board's, which seek to bring people to Christ around the world.

Johnny Hutchison, pastor
Duck Hill Church
Duck Hill

Scriptural puppets?

Editor:

There is a question that I would like answered which is of great concern to me. What place does puppet ministry have in the "worship service" of the Baptist Church???

Are we so advanced that we can resort to this system? Where and when do we get sanction and approval

for such an offset in our "worship service?" Puppet shows can be very entertaining and amusing for some, but for others it is repulsive. There is nothing inspiring in this method being injected in our "worship service."

When the "Ten Commandments" were given at Mount Sinai were puppets needed to stress the importance of the message? Exodus 20.

When Ezra read the laws to all the people from morning until midday they listened attentively to the reading. No puppets were needed. Neh. 8:2-3-8.

When Jesus gave the "Sermon on the Mount" he did not use puppets to emphasize his teachings. Matt. 5-6-7.

When Jesus gave the "Great Commission," he gave the promise of his presence and the power of the "Holy Spirit," but not the promise of puppet power. Matt. 28:18-19-20.

There is more to be pointed out that base my conviction on this subject. Nowhere in my study of the Bible do

I find anything that corresponds to this teaching in God's word.

Name withheld by request

In all due respect and kindness, it would seem correct to point out that there were no pianos used in biblical days, yet they add tremendously to our worship services today. Church of Christ folks, however, do not use them, feeling they are not scriptural. There also is no mention of televised services. Of course, pianos, television, and puppets had not been invented in those days. They did use lyres, psaltaries, and harps. I may be mistaken, but it appears to me that a piano is a harp turned sideways and hit with small mallets instead of sitting upright and being plucked with the fingers.

Parables were also used to convey meaning, perhaps as puppets are now. At any rate, we adults tend to think on an adult level; and I believe the major emphasis in using puppets is to convey truths to children. — Editor



First, Pontotoc, dedicates new organ

First Church, Pontotoc dedicated its new 14 rank pipe organ Sunday evening, Oct. 26. The organ was constructed by the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Ill. Forty-two stop-keys, including couplers, comprise this 14 rank instrument.

An organ committee made up of Larry Young, chairman; Wanda Waldrop, Ellouise Dallas, Charlotte Foster, Charles Austin, and Patricia Henry, organist, was elected by the church to study needs and to search

out the instrument.

The organ was given by Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Hale as a memorial to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dillard and Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hale.

Jeff Binford, organist at the Second Presbyterian Church of Memphis, Tenn., presented a program of organ literature for the dedicatory service.

Pictured, from left, are Bernice Hale, Tommy Hale, Waldrop, David Prevost, music minister, Henry, Young, Austin, and Dallas.

Devotional

Simple reminders are best

By Vernon Sikes

I've learned that sometimes the greatest lessons come unexpectedly and in unpretentious ways. Take, for example, the other day as I was walking downtown.

It was one of those rugged days, a day when nothing at all seems to go as planned.

To top it all off, I had to drop everything and go to the bank even though going to the bank wasn't on my list of things to do that day.

I wasn't in the best of moods. Someone called my name from across the street.

"Oh, no!" I thought, "I don't have time for small talk."

As I turned to see who this person was, I saw her hurrying across the street as she clutched a wrinkled paper sack.

"I'm so glad I ran into you," she said excitedly.

"It's so good to see you," I replied, not at all meaning what I had said.

"Here! I want you to have this," she said as she pulled a small potted plant of some kind from her sack.

"Well, thank you, but why are you doing this?" I asked.

"Don't fret none about it. No reason to it. I just saw you and I decided that I wanted you to have it," she yelled over her shoulder as she hurried back across the street.

I stood there thinking about how wonderfully spontaneous she had been. I think she knew I needed someone to be nice to me that day, and what a wonderful effect it had on the rest of that day that had started so miserably.

She made real one of John's mandates where he said, "Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

Too often, we are so involved in our own situations that we scarcely have time to even think about the needs of others, much less do anything about them. In the world's increasing complexity, that's what happens even to Christians who are aware of the importance of ministering in word and in deed.

That lady didn't exactly teach me anything that I didn't already know, but I'll say one thing for certain.

She did a beautiful job of reminding me of what I, too, should be doing.

Vernon Sikes teaches Spanish at Yazoo City High School and is a member of First Church, Yazoo City.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Joe Abrams, "Mr. Baptist Record"

"We have come to celebrate a life that was lived out in the presence of the Father in obedient faith — a life given in service to the Lord Jesus Christ." Those were the words of the man in the pulpit, John Young of Kansas City, talking about his father-in-law, Joe Abrams.

I was present at Joe's funeral on February 2, at Immanuel Church, Greenwood, where he was a member. He had died on Saturday morning, Jan. 31, at age 80. Saturday afternoon, his grandson, Brian, 14, ran in from the yard in Greenwood and insisted that all the Abrams family come outside to look at something. What they saw, Brian's father, John, described at Joe's funeral.

In a bright beautiful blue sky "a cloud positioned itself directly over the Abrams' apartment," John said. "It was incredible. We looked up and counted at least four different rainbows, all going in different directions. Somehow the sunlight was breaking through the cloud and the perfect image of a cross came shining through.

"The vivid colors in one of those rainbows seemed to leap out at us with a message of hope. I'm sure a meteorologist might offer a number of plausible scientific explanations for that phenomenon, but to the wife of Joe Abrams and to his family, it was a sure sign from heaven. It was a seal of the Holy Spirit on a life lived for Jesus Christ.

"The rainbow, a symbol of promise fulfilled, and the cross, a symbol of the risen Christ, are powerful symbols indeed. But for this preacher these were more than just symbols, for you see, it came quickly like a bolt out of the blue. Something welled up inside me. It was a sure word right out of heaven, a word from the Lord, and a word I needed for this hour — for this is the first funeral sermon I've ever preached — I'm a minister of education — not a preacher — and I knew I needed a word from the Lord today, a fresh touch from the Holy Spirit. It welled up inside of my spirit. The word of the Lord came, 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints' (Psalm 116:15).

"I'm here to tell you today that Joe Abrams does not lie in this casket, for he has gone on to be with the Lord in heaven. We come to celebrate his life among us, but there is a greater celebration, I'm convinced, taking

place in heaven. 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.'"

He went on to talk about the many and various ways that Joe served the Lord in his lifetime.

For 25 years, Joe was employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, first in the Training Union Department and then as director of public relations and associate editor of the Baptist Record. For 21 of those years, he and I were co-workers. I learned to appreciate his friendliness, his trustworthiness, his patience and kindness, his enthusiasm for the job — his championship of missions and of the Baptist denomination.

The tall, thin Joe was a talker. He especially liked to get into theological discussions. We spent a lot of time together in the paste-up room laying out Baptist Record pages. Since we both liked to argue, we spent lots of time debating while we pasted.

He hardly ever was without a joke on the tip of his tongue. As John pointed out, telling a warm story or a joke was "sort of his trademark."

"The Lord has led all these years," he told me when he retired in 1974. "I don't think he will stop now just because I am retiring." As he sought to follow the Lord's direction through 20 years in Alabama and 60 years in Mississippi, he was ordained First Church, Columbus' youngest deacon at age 23. He was a newspaperman and pastor before he joined the Convention Board staff.

He was proud of being a charter member of the Baptist Public Relations Association, and its first president. And he was proud of his good health record at the time of his retirement. He told me he once had worked eleven years without taking a day of sick leave. At 68, he had 20/20 vision, and he'd never worn glasses. In 23 years he had not missed a state Baptist convention or a Baptist student convention in Mississippi, and only one WMU convention and one Southern Baptist Convention meeting (one in Portland to which he had suggested I go instead of him.) My most vivid memories of him are watching him take pictures at many of those meetings.

All the time he worked with the Record he was a faithful member of First Baptist Church, Clinton. I'm sure, as he predicted, that he continued to feel the Lord's leading in all

his endeavors, as he moved to Texas and then back to Moorhead and then to Greenwood. In retirement, he did some preaching and a bit of news reporting for churches and associations.

Once when I went to Mexico, I brought him a gaily painted walking stick as a souvenir. He jokingly said he'd save that for retirement days. I forgot all about it. A long time afterward, when he had retired, he came to visit us in the Baptist Building (he had developed a muscular problem in his later years); he was using that cane. "See, I told you I'd save it to use later!" he said.

His devoted love for his wife was one of his well-known traits, for he never wanted to go anywhere without Lillian. They met in Columbus and their pastor, J. D. Franks, married them in his home April 27, 1929. One of Joe's hobbies was taking Lillian's picture with celebrities. Two in his "collection" were Anita Bryant and Jeannie C. Riley. He told me he didn't think his wife would get tired of having him around after retirement — that they had nine dates a week the year before they married — and they still liked to be together that much.

His children, too, were high on his list of loves — his two daughters, Mary Lillian and Shirley, and son, Joe, plus ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Addressing a crowd at Joe's retirement time, Dr. Joe Odle, then the editor, said Joe might well be called "Mr. Baptist Record." At Joe's funeral, John Young said, "I can see Joe up there now. . . he's not even using a cane; he's arm in arm with the Lord Jesus, and I want to tell you that Joe is having the theological discussion of his lifetime right now with the Lord Jesus himself. . . If he could come back here for one moment, . . . he would exhort us not to allow anything to keep us from missing the great reunion in heaven. . ."

Correction

In Feb. 5 article, "Honduran finds hope in Mississippi," two corrections need to be made. The income of William Qader's mother is only about \$70 per month, not a week, and it is the Methodist Hospital in Hattiesburg, not Jackson, that is providing physical therapy.

Bill Baker heads Foundation officers

In the December meeting of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, the auditor's report of the fiscal year revealed that the participants' fund totaled \$10,578,989.60, a net increase of \$1,853,877.69.

Of that amount, \$7,380,958.79 constituted the General Fund;

\$2,959,302.33 is in the Restricted Fund; and \$238,728.48 represents the Mississippi Mission. Since June 30, 1986, \$380,603.56 has been added to The Mississippi Mission campaign through the Foundation office.

Officers elected for the new year are: president, Bill Baker, Clinton; vice president, James Thomas, Car-

thage; treasurer, Norris Stampely, Jackson; executive committee: Aubrey Boone, chairman, Winona; Hayes Graves, Brandon; and Kearney Travis, Hattiesburg. The budget committee consists of James Wheatley, chairman, Madison; Oliver Ladnier, Magee; and William S. (Bill) Cassel, Union.

The Mississippi Mission Box Scores

Each church is considering a suggested minimum goal (Great Commitment) and maximum goal (Greater Commitment). The target range gives each church an idea of what is required to achieve success for the Mississippi Mission. Listed below are the exciting results of three churches reporting this week!

Greater Commitments (challenge target) Subscribed!		
Church	Goal	Pledged
Wallerville, New Albany	\$10-11,000	\$11,000
Center Ridge, DeKalb	7,8,000	8,000
Great Commitments (minimum target) Subscribed!		
Church	Goal	Pledged
Toxish, Pontotoc	\$ 6- 7,000	\$ 6,000
CONGREGATIONAL GIFTS DIVISION TOTAL		
PLEDGED TO DATE \$1,822,891.97!!		

Missionaries can't stay in Lebanon

(Continued from page 3)

forcing Americans out of Lebanon. Yet they are hopeful she and other Americans will return. A layman, for example, told her, "You are leaving through a very small window, but you will be able to come back soon through a very wide door."

"The Lebanese live on hope," Wingo commented, "because that's all they've got."

Ballenger said the Southern Baptist missionaries leaving Beirut will be housed temporarily in Cyprus.

Neither the Arab Baptist Publication Center nor the Baptist Center for Mass Communications in East Beirut will close, Ballenger said. Earlier this year, the centers had moved from crowded quarters in the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary to a new annex. About 20 Lebanese workers remain at the centers. Missionaries who have been working with them will continue in advisory capacities from Cyprus.

If the government of Cyprus grants permission, the seminary may move there temporarily, Ballenger said. A record 14 full-time and 11 part-time students have been enrolled during the current school year.

At Beirut Baptist School, a committee of three teachers is carrying on administrative duties formerly hand-

ed by Jim Ragland, a 33-year missionary veteran who was ordered out of West Beirut by U.S. officials Jan. 31.

The missionaries will meet with Foreign Mission Board officials to discuss new assignments and receive a listening ear to "work through some of their feelings, anguish, disappointment, frustration," Ballenger said.

"They're a strong group, but I don't know how something like this impacts people mentally, emotionally, physically."

Lebanon "has been a kind of light for Christianity in the entire Middle East," Ballenger continued. "Our missionaries wanted to support that — that freedom to propagate the gospel, freedom to move about, freedom to publish, freedom to teach," a degree of freedom unique in the Middle East.

Prior to the State Department's decision against exemptions, David King, a missionary in Lebanon since 1960, had emphasized in a telephone interview that East Beirut, or Lebanon's "Christian sector," where most of the missionaries work, is reasonably safe.

"Unless our government knows something we don't know... we do not feel it's necessary for us to leave," King insisted.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

Annuity Board elects Hobgood

DALLAS (BP) — Total assets of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board exceeded a record \$2 billion, trustees learned during their first meeting of the year.

Board President Darold H. Morgan told the trustees total assets increased to a record \$2.03 billion on Jan. 31, after closing the calendar year at \$1.95 billion.

"We took 65 years to reach \$1 billion. In only four years we have crossed the \$2 billion mark," Morgan said. He cited substantial gains in income and excellent earnings in retirement plan funds as the reasons for the growth.

Total net income reached a record \$199 million for 1986. Member contributions to retirement plans totaled \$125 million, up 9.3 percent over 1985.

The surge in the stock market boosted earnings in the variable fund,

which closed the year with a 15.8 percent annualized yield. The variable fund is invested primarily in common stocks. The balanced fund was the next most-productive fund, earning 12.86 percent. The fixed fund credited 11 percent, and the board will credit at least 9.5 percent in 1987. The short-term fund finished the year with a 6.77 percent credit.

The board paid a record \$48 million in retirement benefits to 16,375 annuitants last year. Morgan said, noting about 4,000 of those are widows.

Total insurance benefits paid were \$50.9 million, up \$8 million over 1985. The trustees elected W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., executive vice president of InterFirst Bank Dallas, as trustee chairman. Hobgood succeeded Willis L. Meadows of Shreveport, La., who has been chairman since 1985.

Organists invited to seminar

A key leader seminar for church organists will take place March 12 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The program begins at 9:30 a.m., and concludes at 3:30 p.m.

Martha Kirkland, keyboard consultant for the Sunday School Board's Church Music Department, will be seminar leader.

She will teach the book "Five Practical Lessons for Church Organists," by Pauline Riddle. Promotional materials note the lessons include fundamentals of the organ, manual techniques for hymn playing, pedal techniques, major and minor keys, and cadences. Study course credit will be given.

A new pipe organ at First Church, Jackson, across the street from the Baptist Building, will be used to demonstrate points in the sessions. Becky Payne is church organist.

A Baptist Book Store display will be available.

The seminar is limited to the first 50 registrants. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes a meal, the seminar book, and materials. Mail to Key Leader Seminar, Mrs. Dot Pray, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. All registrations must be received by March 6.

Southern Baptist Convention

(Continued from page 4)

Ray E. Roberts, second vice president; retired state convention executive; Asheville, N.C.

Martin B. Bradley, recording secretary; manager, research services department, SBC Sunday School Board; Nashville, Tenn.

Lee Porter, registration secretary; design editor, Sunday school department, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Harold C. Bennett, treasurer; president, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

Wilmer C. Fields, press representative; vice president for public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

John McKay, music director; music evangelist, Fort Worth, Texas

Committee On Order Of Business

Stan Coffey, chairman; pastor, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas

Thomas D. Elliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

Reed Larson, organization executive, Annandale, Va.

W.A. (Pat) Patterson, savings and loan officer, Overland Park, Kan.

Adrian P. Rogers, SBC president; pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Jay Strack, evangelist, Fort Myers, Fla.

John B. Wright, pastor, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.

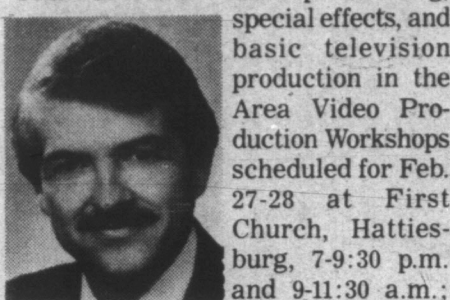
Revival Dates

Southside, Jackson: Feb. 22-Mar. 1; Donnie Guy, full-time evangelism, Biloxi, and former pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, evangelist; Jasper Butler, Haughton, La., music evangelist; services 12 noon each day, lunch served, 11:45 a.m.; 7 p.m., nightly; Sunday, 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:45 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Donald Bozeman, pastor.

Mt. Olive Church (Chickasaw): March 1-6; at 7 p.m.; Don Abernathy, evangelist; Tom Maples, pastor.

Video production workshops scheduled in three cities

Ron Harris, minister of media, Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Tex. will lead a workshop on editing, special effects, and basic television production in the Area Video Production Workshops scheduled for Feb. 27-28 at First Church, Hattiesburg, 7-9:30 p.m. and 9-11:30 a.m.; March 2 at First Church, Meridian, 7-9:30 p.m.; and March 3 at Calvary Church, Tupelo, 7-9:30 p.m.



Harris, prior to going to Travis Avenue, was minister of media at First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex. for six years. He served as minister of music and associate pastor at Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth, 1973-1978; and has been a radio announcer at KPLX-FM Radio, Fort Worth/Dallas; WGCM Radio, Gulfport, 1968-1969; WBAP Radio, 1966-68.

Other work experience includes producer/co-host of "First Things First" talk/variety television program, 1981-1986; producer-director of "Invitation to Life" (pilot program) in 1981; and co-host of "50 Plus" television program with Texas Christian University and area agencies on aging, 1977-80, among other television productions.

In addition to serving as minister of media at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Harris is an adjunct professor of communications at Southwestern Seminary.

The Area Video Production Workshops will also feature a

workshop on local programming ideas, led by Jim Robinson, Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth. Robinson will show examples of local programming and spots being done by other churches across the convention.

Churches attending the workshop are invited to bring examples of their programming on videotape (3/4-inch or 1/2-inch) to share with the group.

This training is for pastors, ministers of media, other staff members, television committees, directors of missions, local ACTS Board members, church television crews, and other interested persons, according to Farrell Blankenship, Director of the Department of Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, sponsors of the area workshops.

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Puzzle Answer

(Puzzle on page 11)

S	U	I	R	A	O	R	W	I	S	O	W	A	N	I	P	D					
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CHILDREN'S PAGE

Thursday, February 19, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers) Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



Scooba GAs win first place

GAs of Scooba Church, Scooba, entered a float in the county-wide Christmas parade. The float was made up of seven GAs in their costumes of the world, an RA preacher Stevie Sharp, standing before the big WMU world map, flags of the world flying, and the hand-printed (by an Acteen) message declaring, "WE MUST MAKE CHRIST KNOWN IN KEMPER COUNTY — AND IN ALL THE WORLD." The float won the blue ribbon in its category and a cash award of \$200.00, which was given to missions by the GAs.

Pictured, from left, are Vanessa Barham, (dressed as Lottie Moon), Misty Fleming, Jan Hailey, Cathy Williams, Stephanie Sharp, Brandy Kingery, and Heather Hatcher, Brenda Barham is the GA leader.

Daniel in the lion's den

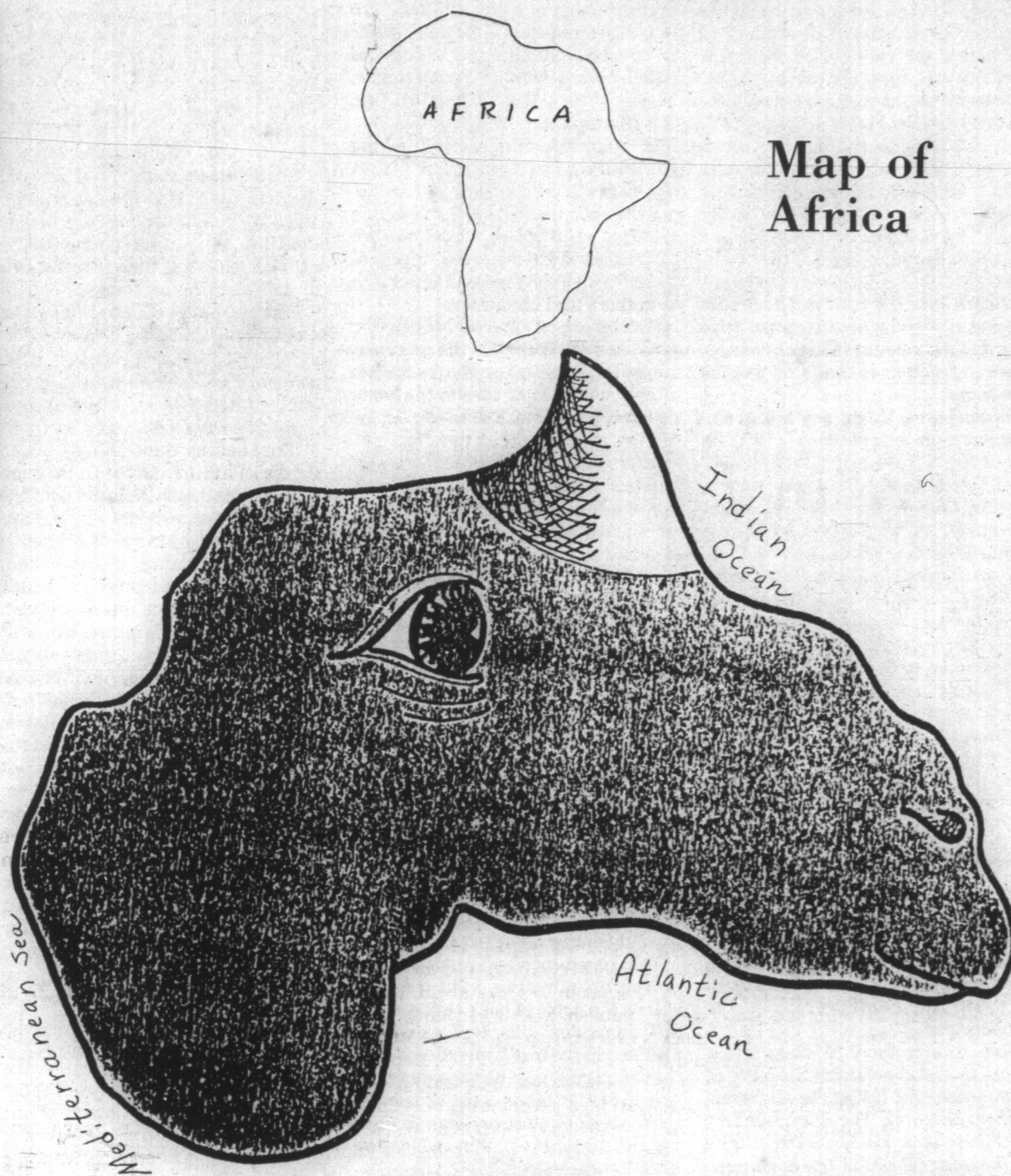
Daniel 6

Can you find these words in the puzzle below?

Daniel	den of lions	law
Darius	God	morning
kingdom	praying	peace
king	angel	believed
presidents	decree	three
jealous	worshiped	Babylon

(Answers on p. 10)

S	U	I	R	A	D	R	W	B	S	O	W	A	N	P	D
T	B	U	R	W	A	T	O	A	U	O	N	B	T	R	E
D	H	C	F	G	N	H	R	B	I	G	J	K	M	E	G
W	S	R	T	H	I	J	S	Y	E	K	N	O	P	S	W
G	O	D	E	G	E	W	H	L	L	N	O	W	A	I	O
A	B	U	T	E	L	N	I	O	E	E	R	C	E	D	U
W	D	Z	O	T	R	D	P	N	G	B	A	C	O	E	S
R	F	G	M	Y	Z	B	E	O	C	L	T	Z	W	N	G
J	E	A	L	O	U	S	D	Y	B	C	S	Y	O	T	T
G	N	I	Y	A	R	P	B	T	W	R	R	I	G	S	C
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	D	U	J	S	L	Q	N	B	F
T	G	K	Z	V	P	O	E	Y	Z	F	T	J	I	W	G
K	I	N	G	D	O	M	C	K	O	Q	U	S	N	Z	K
C	J	W	L	A	R	N	A	N	D	A	B	D	R	B	I
O	H	Z	Z	M	V	G	E	R	W	T	Z	C	O	A	N
L	A	W	T	O	C	D	P	U	Y	O	M	T	M	T	G



Use your imagination. What do you see in the map of Africa? Turn the map sideways. Now what do you see? Does it look like a rhinoceros or another wild animal that lives in Africa? Color the maps.

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Ralph Peterson, creator of Geografun, may be addressed, at 1200 S. Washington St., 627 E, Alexandria, VA 22314.



Children's choir Christmas program, "Jesus the Greatest Gift of All" was presented at Montgomery Church, Summit, Dec. 14. Mrs. Pris Price is director and was assisted by Mrs. Gail Sasser. Pictured are Annie Chuter, Christy Moak, Stacy Moak, Rusty Moak, Dloyne Moak, Jeff Ertheheart, Donnie Barksdale, Dwayne Moak, Benji Gatlin. Also, are Bridget

Wallace, Josh Howard, Heather Sasser, Lisa Gatlin, and Valerie Moak.

Montgomery Church honored the GAs with a recognition service, Nov. 30. Mrs. Linda Chuter is director, and Mrs. Sybil Barksdale is leader.

Tony Chuter is pastor.

Trustees authorize new Bible commentary

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A new multi-volume Bible commentary reflecting the views of biblical inerrantists was approved during the semiannual meeting of Sunday School Board trustees Feb. 2-4.

In addition to the new commentaries, trustees approved a total of 15 recommendations, including new music publishing guidelines and a report on plans to provide adequate office and warehouse space for the board.

Board President Lloyd Elder said he was pleased with the cooperative spirit of the meeting in which trustees worked together to make responsive decisions.

With approval of the new Bible commentary, in response to a motion made by a messenger at the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, the board will spend an estimated \$1.5 million to develop and publish the new product.

Broadman division director Dessel Aderholt estimated the break-even point on sales would be approximately 200,000 volumes. The first volume is expected to be released in 1990.

The vote to publish the commentary came after the trustee Broadman publishing committee had recommended to trustees that no commentary be published. The committee cited extensive research which revealed a weak demand for another commentary set at this time and concerns by some respondents that a commentary would be divisive in the current climate in the denomination.

After hearing the report, however, several trustees said they felt such a commentary could have a healing effect on the controversy in the denomination.

Jodi Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, a member of the SBC Peace Committee, said during the discussion that publishing the commentary would speak a positive word to a lot of unhappy people in the denomination by being responsive to the grassroots people.

After several minutes of debate, trustee Joe Courson, pastor of Cinco Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., offered a substitute motion that the board proceed with haste to produce a commentary.

Two amendments were then voted to the substitute motion. The first, made by trustee Dean Mathis, pastor of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church in Hobbs, N.M., called for the commentary "to reflect a strong, scholarly defense of the traditional authorship of the biblical books, the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, and a presentation of an apologetic for Creationism in the introduction to Genesis."

The second amendment, by Roland Maddox of Memphis, Tenn., specified all writers who contribute to the commentary "hold to the position of inerrancy."

The substitute motion and both amendments all passed by a wide majority.

In publishing the Bible commentary the board will employ the advice of the past five presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention,

representatives of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, and Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., to find appropriate contributors.

In another matter, publishing guidelines for the board's new Genevox Music Group also were approved unanimously. Discussion centered on whether guidelines are too broad regarding the types of music to be published and the choice of authors and composers.

Fes Robertson, director of Genevox, said the local church is the principal target for Genevox products, though attention may later turn to the home and devotional markets when opportunities and resources develop.

After extensive study by a special trustee committee and the administration, trustees authorized the administration to pursue development of a plan to provide for space requirements in downtown Nashville through the year 2000 AD and beyond. Instead of building a distribution center away from downtown Nashville, changes are anticipated in the board's present operations building, where renovation will better equip the board for faster delivery of materials.

Sell book

The book store committee responded to a motion referred to the board from a messenger at the 1986 SBC in Atlanta regarding the sale of "Truth in Crisis," by James Hefley, in Baptist Book Stores and at the exhibit at the annual Southern Baptist Convention.

The recommended response, approved unanimously, said the book will be available in book stores and in SBC annual exhibits. New guidelines included in the recommendation state that all products to be considered for sale in SBC exhibits must be submitted to the book store division by April 1 each year for evaluation and to allow time to order stock.

Trustees also unanimously approved an average increase of 3.5 percent in the price of church literature, to be implemented beginning with the April 1988 quarter.

Three new products were approved by trustees.

Trustees approved three other responses to referrals from recent Southern Baptist conventions.

One resolution regarding temperance lessons in curriculum materials was answered with the explanation that current plans call for dealing with what the Bible says about alcohol in 28 lessons between 1986 and 1989. Also, consideration is being given to an annual special emphasis temperance lesson for youth and adults.

Lloyd Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pickens, S.C., was re-elected chairman of the trustees; Robert H. Bible, a layman from Morristown, Tenn., was re-elected vice chairman and chairman of the executive committee; and Lynn Moench, a layman from Nashville, was re-elected secretary of the trustees.

Jim Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.

Genesis leader says commission not a society

By Marv Knox

HOUSTON (BP) — The leader of Southern Baptists' newest missions organization has responded to "not factual" statements that have linked his effort to the "resurgence of the conservatives" within the denomination.

The Genesis Commission, formed by two Southern Baptist pastors and a layman late in 1986, has come under attack by people who do not understand the purpose and function of the organization, Executive Director Bill Darnell told Baptist Press.

"Many statements have been made recently concerning the Genesis Commission," Darnell said. "Those linking the commission with the resurgence of the conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention are not factual."

"The Genesis Commission, which derives its name from the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Old Testament term for 'beginning,' has a dual mission of soul-winning and church planting," Darnell said, reiterating the purpose he stated when the commission was announced.

The Genesis Commission will recruit and finance pastors to start Baptist churches, primarily in foreign countries. It has drawn criticism from some Southern Baptists who maintain the commission will compete with the SBC Foreign Mission Board, particularly for funds.

"In no way is the Genesis Commission a foreign mission society. There is no anticipation of appointing missionaries," Darnell countered. "No effort will be made to secure gifts which would have gone to our Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program of world missions."

The Genesis Commission "also is in keeping with the cherished Baptist principle of the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the various entities in Southern Baptist life," he said. "The founders of the Genesis Commission see the work of the commission as an augmentation to the excellent work already being done by various Southern Baptist Convention agencies."

"Every attempt is being made to avoid interfering with other evangelistic organizations," Darnell promised. "However, the founders believe there is an imperative need for an aggressive, dynamic effort to begin hundreds of new churches."

The commission particularly is targeting Mexico, where the need for new churches is apparent, he added: "Mexico's present economic and political climate make them (the people) vulnerable to many dangerous influences."

Along with Darnell, who formerly was pastor of Kirby Woods Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., the other founders and members of the "official board of directors" for the commission are John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston, and Randy Best, a layman and member of Second Baptist Church in Houston.

Darnell said people who would like further information about the Genesis Commission can write to him at the organization's offices: 515 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77027.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Morrison Heights features Sunday evening specials for college students

For six consecutive Sunday evenings, January 18-February 22, the pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, Ken Alford, is teaching a special series of studies for college age young adults on "Defending the Faith."

The study is being held during Church Training time. Then after the evening worship service, a meal is served for the college students, and the Christian Life Center is opened exclusively for them. To date, over 60 college students have responded to the invitation to attend the study.

George County announces world missions conference

Six missionaries will be going to George County on Feb. 26 to begin a five-service presentation on missions. Each participating church (Barton, Southside, Shady Grove, First Baptist, Lucedale, Rocky Creek, and Vernal), will hear five different missionaries. Services in the local churches will begin on Thursday night, 7 p.m., then Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m., and close with two worship services on Sunday.

The missionaries represent a variety of ministries and countries. Mrs. David Mayhall serves as a missionary to West Africa; Glenn Bien is a missionary to Bangladesh; Edd Brown is Director of Men's Ministries for the Baptist Convention of California; Joe Stovall is chaplain at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Riccalah Constantine from Lebanon works with Arab people in Birmingham, Ala.; and Jerry Barrett is missionary to Hong Kong.

Members of non-participating churches can plan to attend services in a church which will host five missionaries. "The world is brought to our

door steps in the person and ministry of the missionaries," says Horace Glass, director of missions.

ABS tops 100 million

NEW YORK — The American Bible Society distributed 100,142,313 scriptures throughout the United States in 1986, a 4.07 percent rise over the 96 million-plus copies distributed the previous year.

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Southern Harvest: students hear of hunger needs

The Baptist Student Union at the University of Southern Mississippi sponsored "Southern Harvest — A Hunger Awareness Emphasis," during the last week of January. Rick Axtell, a doctoral student at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the coordinator of Louisville United



Axtell Against Hunger, was the guest speaker for the week.

Major programs and lectures were given on campus and at the Baptist Student Center. Axtell also spoke in three classes during the week and at a local church.

A canned food competition was held among campus organizations, with the winners being announced at halftime of a USM basketball game. All of the canned food and money that was collected was given to Breadbasket, a Hattiesburg food pantry sponsored by several churches.

The concluding service entitled "Seeds of Hope," was presented at the Baptist Student Center.

Staff Changes

Mickey Ferguson has been called as pastor of New ElBethel Church in Lafayette Association. He and his wife, Mary, have two children, Kathy, 12, Jason, 8.

Jon Daniels has resigned as minister of music and youth of Thompson Church, Mississippi Association, to accept the minister of music and youth position at First Church, Avondale, La., beginning Feb. 22.

Daniels is a student at New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Vicki Massey of Brookhaven.

Hugh Griffon has accepted the position of minister of music at Eastside Church, Magee. Drew Blanton, pastor.

Perry Claxton is interim pastor of First Church, Greenville, for the fifth time since he retired as pastor of the church in 1972. First, Greenville, has been without a pastor since June 1, 1986. Claxton, who was 80 on Jan. 6, 1987, may have set a record among Southern Baptist preachers, in being called back five times to be interim pastor of the church where he has been pastor emeritus for over 20 years.

Philip Griffin has been called as associate pastor and director of music and youth at Highland Church, Laurel. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and goes to Highland Church from First Church, Bebe, Ark.

Cipdy Morris, preschool and youth director at Highland Church, Laurel, has resigned to become preschool ministries director of First Church, Anderson, S.C.

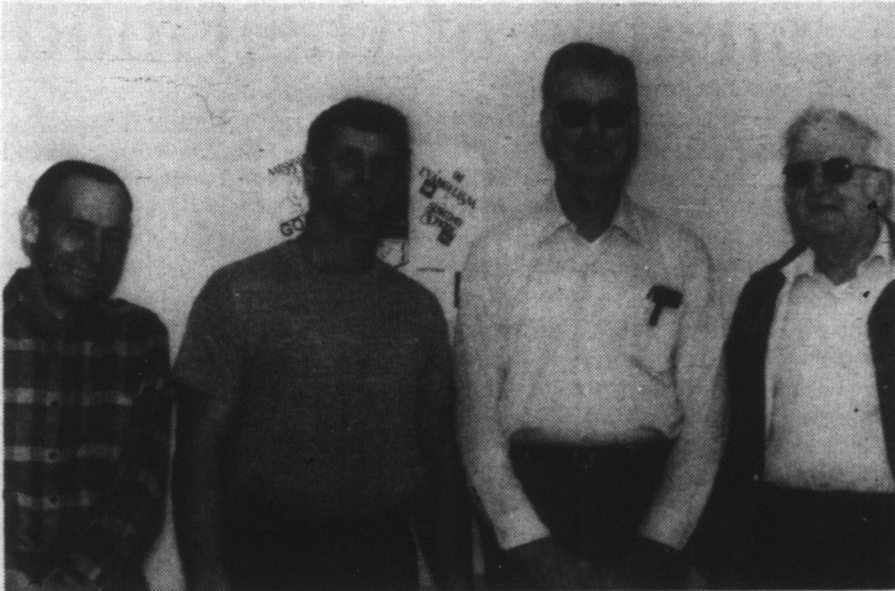
Al Moore, former interim minister of music at Highland Church, Laurel, was honored at a churchwide reception on his last day of service, Feb. 1. He is available for full-time, part-time, or interim work and may be reached at 649-6204.

Just for the Record



Deacons of Puckett Church, Puckett, on Baptist Men's Day, recognized Tom Parks and his wife, Gladys, for 44 years of active service as deacon.

Pictured, left to right, first row, are Alvin C. Doyle, pastor, Mrs. Parks, Parks, and Tom James. Second row, Bracy James, J. D. Kennedy, Bud Overby, and Jim Kennedy. Third row, Prentiss Calhoun, Scottie Purvis, and Golden Gill. Fourth row, Glen Greer, Stanley Means, Butch Burnham, Ken Thompson, Charles McGlocklin, and Rufus Vanderford.



Four men left the Clarke Baptist Center, Jan. 30, for Carson City, Nev. to assist home mission volunteer, Hughes Bailey, in the construction of a church building. They were scheduled to return Feb. 9.

Pictured, from left, are Edward T. Reeves, associational Brotherhood director, Northrup Chapel; Jimmy Kennedy, Pleasant Hill Church; John Lawson, Pine Hill Church; and Austin Smith, First Church, Quitman.

"The trip was financially sponsored by the Clarke County Association as a special mission project," says Grady Crowell, director of missions, Clarke Association.

Woodland Hills Bible Conference will feature Tolar as teacher

William, Tolar, Dean, School of Theology, Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., will be guest teacher for the Winter Bible Conference at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, Feb. 21-22. He will lead adults in the study of the book of James during sessions on Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 noon and 6:30-8:30 p.m.



He will speak in the Sunday morning worship service at 10:45 and continue the Bible study on Sunday evening, 5:45-8:00.

Sessions for deaf adults will be conducted during the weekend conference with Neal Peyton, missionary to the deaf in North Carolina, teaching the book of James by video tape.

Bible study will be provided for

children in grades one through six. Youth will participate in Disciple Now Weekend, February 20-21, and join the Bible Conference sessions on Sunday. Preschool child care will be provided during the conference.

Woodland Hills Church is located at 3327 Old Canton Road in Jackson. Bill Fuller is pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Feb. 25-26 Directors of Missions Program Interpretation Meeting; Camp Garaywa; 1 p.m., 25th-4:30 p.m., 26th (PD)
- Feb. 27-28 Video Production Workshop; FBC, Hattiesburg; 7 p.m., 27th-11:30 a.m., 28th (DBS); State Instrumental Festival; Mississippi College; 6 p.m., 27th-3 p.m., 28th (CM); Regional Skills Training Conference; Vicksburg; 9 a.m.-27th 4 p.m., 28th (BRO)
- Feb. 28 Kindergarten/Day Clinic; Broadmoor BC, Jackson; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)



WMU of Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg, was instrumental in helping the church reach the Lottie Moon goal of \$3,000. The grand total was \$3,300. As each one hundred dollars was given a light was turned on to represent that "We Must Make Christ Known" around the world.

Pictured are Tom Killgore, pastor, and Mrs. Maggie Gordon, WMU president.



Washington Association had an excellent associational GA/RA day camp Sept. 19-20, at Second Church, Greenville. The GA's had 92 girls and leaders, with nine churches represented. The RA's had 21 dads and leaders, four pastors, the associational RA director and 79 RA boys to attend.

Pictured, from left are James Kerr, associational RA director; Carolyn Gidder, associational WMU director; Roy D. Raddin, director of missions; Gena Calcote and Ralph Calcote, missionaries to Japan.

A Winter Bible Study will be held Feb. 22-25 at Liberty Church, Rankin County. Hardy R. Denham, Jr. will lead the study on the book of James.

The Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Greenville, has started an International WMU Circle. Its membership is comprised mainly of Chinese women who live in Greenville, and also includes one from the Philippines. Emily Brooks is the church's WMU director.

Associations adopt expanded annuity plan of '88

The following associations have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan of 1988 since those reported in the Jan. 8 issue of the Baptist Record:

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Jesus encourages Christians in troubled times

By Robert M. Hanvey
Revelation 1:4b-10, 12-18

The Revelation has always intrigued me from the standpoint of attempting to understand as much as possible about the work which Jesus did through the apostle John. I have always been concerned that the understanding of the Revelation is contained in two areas. One — there is hope for the Christian. Two — there is no hope for the unrepentant man. When the Revelation is viewed from these perspectives, it becomes rather clear to me that Jesus was offering encouragement to his people who found themselves in dire straits at the hands of Emperor Domitian in about A.D. 95.

The apostle John, the Beloved, was summoned by the Lord Jesus Christ to the Isle of Patmos, there to receive the Revelation or the unveiling of that which had been previously hid-



Hanvey

UNIFORM

den — the mystery of the faith, the person of Christ. Consequently, the beautiful part of the Revelation is that Jesus opens himself to his own. The beautiful part is that Jesus has removed any kind of covering, anything that has veiled him previously and offered himself to his own in a new way. From the focal passage we understand the power and the care which God gives to his own. Jesus is more powerful than any problem. Jesus has offered himself to those who are in times of difficulty. He has offered himself to his body, the church.

When one views Jesus as the Encourager, as the Helper, as the Hope (the revealed Hope), he finds himself strengthened for living. Jesus does encourage Christians in troubled times as well as helping them in good times. John was the receiver of this kind of revelatory message from the Lord himself. The Christians whom Jesus has redeemed are not going to be those whom he just allows to be overrun or to be without any sort of help and strength at all.

Jesus is the One who is providing help to each one. He shares with John that he is the beginning and the ending of all things and, "I am going to come again and let everyone behold me as I come. I am going to let everyone see me. I am going to come in mighty power and majesty to receive my own unto myself."

John was commanded to write this beautiful message of encouragement to the seven churches of Asia Minor, and he did. At the unveiling of Jesus, at the untiring way in which Jesus gave himself, and at the way in which Jesus opened John's understanding to the message of hope revealed by the Lord, the appearance of Christ to John seemingly did no more than to encourage John himself to write.

People who are experiencing difficulty can find help from this lesson. They can find help from the Revelation. They can learn that Jesus' love is so magnificent, so overriding, so full, so complete, so encouraging as to help them. Of course, knowing of God's concern for Christians allows the Christian to become more comfortable in and more expressive of his faith. In the

church of the Living Christ, we see in Jesus, particularly from the Revelation, his involvement in the church, his support of the church, his giving strength to the church, his encouraging the church; just giving himself to the church. This kind of message is revealed to you and to me in the Revelation. Jesus possesses the keys to life, to death, to heaven, to hell, to all things which have been created, and to all things which are under his feet and in subjection to him.

John, while on the Isle of Patmos, was the recipient of the Revelation of Jesus Christ at a time when Christians needed help and encouragement. yet, the same kind of encouragement is needed in our world today. In moments of persecution, in times of dire need and distress, in times when the families are being wracked with difficulty and pain, in times when the political scene is not what it ought to be, there is the need for encouraging one another through Jesus Christ. He has already revealed himself to us.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

Caring for others: The parable of the Good Samaritan

By Nathan L. Barber
Luke 10:25-37

It is one of the best known parables which Jesus taught. It is found only in the Gospel according to Dr. Luke. It was told by the Teacher in a teaching/learning session in response to a lawyer's attempt to test and discredit him before those present. Since lawyers or scribes were experts in the Mosaic Law, his question would naturally be slanted in that direction.

The lawyer asked Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus simply allowed the Expert to share with the group what the Law said concerning the matter. The lawyer answered from Deuteronomy (6:5) and Leviticus (19: 18) by saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."



Barber

LIFE AND WORK

In each case the answer was, in effect, a summing up of the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17). The first four commandments concern man's relationship to God. And then based on man's relationship to God, the final six commandments concern man's relationship to man. Since the lawyer's question had revolved around the words, "What shall I do," Jesus pointed him to the Law, "Do this, and you will live" (Lev. 18-5). Jesus was specific. He said to "do this," not study this, know this, teach this, or think about this. Do this!

However the lawyer, perhaps recalling the sacrificial system, knew that no one had ever been able to accomplish in motive, attitude, and action all that the Law required. (Refer to Rom. 3:10, 19-23; Gal. 3:17-26; Hebrews 10:1-4).

Having demonstrated that he already knew the answer to his own question, the lawyer felt that he must justify himself before the group.

So he asked Jesus to identify who is intended by the term "neighbor." Again Jesus was going to allow the lawyer to answer his own question. In words at least, the lawyer had rightly connected the love of God and love of neighbor. Jesus wants to show him that he must love not only in word, but in deed (I John 3:17,18). Jesus then relates the parable of the caring Samaritan, a parable probably based on real events about which Jesus had knowledge.

In this parable Jesus answered the question, "Who is my neighbor," by picturing someone who actually did the neighborly thing. The Samaritan demonstrated his love for God by caring for the need of another person, a fellow human being. The victim, most probably a Jew, had been stripped, beaten, and left half dead. And since there was "bad blood" between Jews and Samaritans, it was a remarkable turn of events for a hated Samaritan to be pictured as setting the example of a loving neighbor. But when the Samaritan saw the plight of the man who had fallen among robbers, he felt compassion for him.

It was compassion which served as a springboard for the loving service (ministry) which the Samaritan would perform.

Being religious people connected to the temple, the priest and Levite would be the ones considered most likely to be interested in helping a man in need. However they demonstrate the very real possibility of being active in religious matters and yet being unconcerned about human need. Their strict adherence to religious ritual and ceremony had brought them to religion without love. They had "neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness." Caring, like love, is active and should be expressed in action. But even in the face of pain, suffering, and hurting, the priest and Levite are unwilling for their devotion to God to be lived out in this personal and concrete situation.

The character in the parable who proved to be a neighbor was obvious to the lawyer. Jesus told him "You (lawyer) go and do the same (as the Samaritan)."

Nathan Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

There is assurance of joy and peace in tribulation

By Charles Wesley
John 16:19-27, 30-33

Do you feel like you are caught between a rock and a hard place? What circumstances are testing your faith? Jesus never promised an easy lifestyle for his followers, but he did promise victory over the tribulations experienced by the Christian. This lesson describes the assurances that Jesus gives to his followers in every age.

I. There is the assurance of sorrow being turned to joy (vv. 19-22). — Jesus knew that his disciples wanted to ask him a question concerning his statement: "a little while, and you will no longer behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me" (v. 16). Jesus explains that for a while, the disciples will experience sorrow and despair, and the world will be rejoicing over what the world assumes to be a victory. The death of Jesus would appear to be a victory for Satan and a world system opposed to God. However, the resurrection declares that Christ had won the victory instead



Wesley

BIBLE BOOK

of Satan.

The disciples' brief sorrow would be transformed into abiding joy. Jesus illustrates this truth by reminding his disciples that the brevity of birth pains are turned to joy with the birth of the child. That which was causing the pain later brought joy to the mother. The leaving of Jesus which was bringing sorrow to the disciples would later bring abiding joy as the victory is realized.

We should remember that the circumstances that bring us sorrow are only brief compared to the eternal joy we possess as followers of Jesus. Jesus promises us that no one is able to rob the Christian of his or her joy. The happenings of life may not always be happy events, but unhappy events cannot destroy the deep joy of one who trusts Jesus Christ through all happenings.

II. There is the assurance of answered prayer (vv. 23-27). — Jesus tells his disciples that "in that day" they will not ask him any questions.

Rather, they will carry their requests to the Father, who will give to them in Jesus' name. When does "in that day" refer? Since we know that the disciples asked Jesus questions between his resurrection and ascension, "in that day" seems to refer to the time between Jesus' ascension and his second coming. The disciples had not previously prayed to the Father in Jesus' name (v. 24), but after Jesus leaves they are to do so. Furthermore, Jesus declares that the believer can make his requests directly to Father because the Father loves him (vv. 26-27). God loves everyone, and he makes possible salvation for everyone through his Son's death on the cross. However, the believer experiences God's love as he trusts that Jesus came from the Father and loves Jesus. We should continually give thanks for the spiritual blessings we receive from a loving and gracious God.

In addition, Jesus said that he would no longer speak to his disciples "in proverbs" ("figurative language" NASB). Rather, Jesus would reveal the Father in plain words. The teachings of Jesus would become clearer as they are guided by the Holy Spirit. When we ask God to reveal himself and allow ourselves to be

guided by the Holy Spirit, we come to know God's love and his will for our lives.

III. There is the assurance of peace in the midst of tribulation (vv. 31-33). — Even though the disciples had strongly asserted their faith in Christ, he points out they will leave him alone during the time of his death. The Christian must apply his or her faith during times of tribulation as well as the easy times. The disciples learned this lesson the hard way.

Then Jesus concludes his passage with a statement of encouragement. Jesus declared that in him the believer can experience peace. The word "peace" connotes more than the absence of hostility or fighting. The Christian will always experience hostility and tribulation in the world. The peace that Jesus offers is wholeness, stability, and contentment even though the Christian lives in a hostile world. "Tribulation" means to be under pressure as grain caught between the grinding stones. However, the Christian can take courage and be confident, because Jesus has overcome the world. Therefore, the Christian will overcome the world in Christ. Amen!

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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IN MEMORY OF MRS. JEANIE APPLETON

The Baptist Children's Village acknowledges with gratitude the gift of a beautiful collection of 125 dolls in memory of Mrs. Jeanie Appleton of Sardis. The family, Mr. Macel Appleton, Sr., Mr. Macel Appleton, Jr., Mr. Jimmy Appleton and Miss Joy Appleton received the following correspondence dated December 29, 1986 from Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director of The Village "Confirming my comments to Mr. Appleton, Sr. by telephone some days ago, on behalf of Village children who will continue to enjoy your generosity beyond measure, I extend hearty thanks for your thoughtfulness and unselfishness in contributing a beautiful collection of 125 dolls, which were the property of your late wife and mother, Jeanie Appleton. We are honored to here note, with respect that you make the gift in her memory. Obviously, our children profit by this gift and will enjoy the dolls for years to come. Beyond that, I want you to know we are touched and humbled to have you choose our ministry for this sensitive gesture, using the needs of children who must make their homes with us an appropriate medium of tribute to the life and influence of Mrs. Appleton. Please be assured that our staff and children will continue to remember you in the difficult adjustment which must be yours."